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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation جوردان تايمز يومية سياننية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية ،الراي، DIRECT CHARTER FLIGHTS TO

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YOUR WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Volume 19 Number 5962

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Cabinet approves aid agreements

AMMAN (Petra) - The million) to Jordan's agricultural reform programme. The Cahinet, holding a regular meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, also approved an agreement with the German construction bank which will give five million marks (JD 2.5 million) to support Industrial Development Bank (IDB) projects and programmes. It also agreed to exchange memos of anderstauding with the Japanese government on a five million yen (\$250,000) grant for Radio Jordan. The Cabinet also approved an amendment to the sales tax law and decides to send it to Parliament.

Efforts under way for Mideast bank

· AMMAN (Petra) --- Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheh has said efforts were under way to establish a Middle East development bank at a capital of \$5 billion. In an interview with the London-based Middle East Television broadcast Saturday. Mr. Abul Ragheh said an international committee was following up issues re-lated to the establishment of the bank. The minister said the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, which will be held in Amman in October, will dis-cuss two kinds of projects, one regional and the other national, which will be carried ont jointly by the private and public sectors. He said the project proposals which will be presented to the conference will be in three groups; the first 27 major projects, the second between To and 80 projects which will be prepared by the government and carried out hy the private sector, and the third prepared by the private sectors to fit its needs. The minister voiced hope that the Amman summit will witness the declaration of the estabhishment of the regional de-

Yemeni leader pians Arab tour

velopment bank.

SANAA (R) — President Ali Abdullah Saleh is expected to tour four Arab countries next week in a bid to promote bilateral relations, an official Yemeni newspaper said. The weekly Al Wahdah paper said in an insourced report that the tour would include Qatar, Jordan, Syria and Egypt. It said Mr. Saleh would brief the leaders of the four countries "on the outcome of his talks with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia

Zerouai meets Iraqi minister

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algera's President Liamine Zeroual met Saturday with Iraqi Justice Minister Shabih Al Malaki, who briefed him on efforts to get the United Nations Security Council to lift the embargo against Iraq. Mr. Malaki, a special envoy of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, was quoted by the official Algerian news agency APS as saying that Iraq had "respected its commitments." He added that it was up to the Security Council to maintain "its commitments contained in paragraph 22 of resolution 687 authorising the

Egypt, EU seek partnership deal

the European Union (EU) are to hold talks in Brussels in a fresh bid to reach a new partnership accord, an Egyptian official said Saturday. Saad Al Farargi, deputy foreign minister, told reporters: Any accord with the European Union must take into account the success of Egypt's reform programme and guarantee measures to strengthen our industry." | observation post was sur-

PLO, Israel move Cabinet on Saturday approved a draft accord with the German government under which Germany will give 30 million marks (ID 15 million) to Iordarks (ID 15

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinians and Israeli negoflators are moving their talks to Italy next week to try to conclude an agreement on Israeli troop redeployment from the West Bank, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials said Satur-

A senior source close to the negotiations said talks were likely to extend beyond the official July 25 deadline set for reaching an accord because of a dispute over Palestinian security responsibilities in some parts of the West Bank.

Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfour said the four existing sets of talks on various aspects were to be merged

"Negotiating teams cover-ing security and civil issues will be merged and one large Palestinian team and another large Israeli team will be holding intensive talks in Italy starting next week to con-clude an interim accord," Mr. Asfour told Reuters.

Mr. Asfour said the PLO hopes to conclude an interim agreement by the July 25 deadline, "but it is not important if we miss the deadline by days or a week, the most important thing is to concinde a good accord."

Chief Israeli negotiator Uri Savir echoed his words, saying "it would not be a disaster" if the deadline was missed.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Friday he believes the emerging accord to expand Palestinian rule would not bring security to Israelis in the short run, but terror will decrease?" he

that there was no other added.

alternative. Mr. Savir said Friday 60 per cent of the agreement has already been formulated, and the final accord would be

some 200 pages long.
PLO leader Yasser Arafat
expressed hope Friday that Israel would respect the July 25 target date for a deal on the extension of Palestinian

"We hope that things de-velop as we would wish and that an accord is reached on July 25," Mr. Arafat told reporters during a visit to

"Israel has so far failed to apply" the next phase of antonomy which is a year behind schedule, said Mr. Arafat before returning to Gaza after talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr

Mr. Rabin, in an interview with Channel Two television Friday, said there was no alternative to the emerging deal, but warned that security benefits from reaching peace with the Palestinians would only be apparent in the long

Many Israelis have charged that a partial Israeli troop withdrawal in the West Bank would place the lives of the 140,000 Jewish settlers there in danger,

"Without a solution be-tween us and the Palesti-nians, what would happen?" Mr. Rabin asked. "The alternative is that Hamas and Islamic Jihad will take control over the Palestinian establishment. And then

Public opinion polls pub-lished Friday indicated that the majority of Israelis be-lieve they would feel less safe once Palestinian policemeu replace Israeli troops who redeploy from West Bank towns. In two separate polls, 53 per cent said they opposed the withdrawal.

Mr. Savir said Saturday lessons of Palestinian selfrule in Gaza would be applied to the extension of selfrule to the West Bank. "Our conclusions are the

Palestinians must, from the first day in the West Bank, act against any expression of terrorism. I think in Gaza they showed as soon as they show resolve they can do it, he said in an Israel Radio

The Palestinian National Anthority (PNA) has cracked down ou militants in Gaza. whom it accuses of trying to undermine the deal with a

campaign of violence. Chief PLO uegotiator Ahmad Qouriea told reporters after a Palestinian cabinet meeting on Saturday Israeli redeployment and Palestinian elections would be concluded by the end of

PLO officials said that Israel would redeploy from seven Palestinian towns and most of the 460 villages and refugee camps in the West Bank in the first phase of redeployment which will end 22-25 days before Palestinian elections.

Israeli negotiator Joel Singer was quoted on Friday as saying Israel would initially redeploy from six towns.



WIMBLEDON: Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor on Friday watch the semi-final tennis match at

Wimbledon between Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia and Pete Sampras of the United States (AFP photo)

Egypt rejects mediation with Sudan

MANAMA (Agencies) -Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said Saturday that Cairo does not accept mediation in its rift with neighbouring Sudan.

"I do not think that mediation is called for between us and Sudan if intentions became sincere and if policies that trouble and irk many African, Arah and Islamic states are ended," he told reporters at a two-day meeting of the so-called Damascus declaration states — the Six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members, Egypt and Syria — which opened here

Saturday (see page 12). The GCC comprises Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain. was not clear why Cairo

does not want any mediation in its long-running dispute with Sudan. But Egypt accuses Sudan

of orchestrating an assassma-26. Sudan denies that.

tion attempt by extremists on Egyptiau President Hosni Mubarak in Ethiopia June

Arah situation especially at these critical circumstances." Mr. Kourieh said. He said the message

Sudanese envoy delivered to Mr. Assad "deal with the Arah ties." Mr. Musa's rejection of Mr. Assad gave him a reply

The June 26 assassination bid Assad urged Sudan and Egypt to resolve their differheightened tension and trigences, hut gave no indica-tions whether Mr. Assad gered border skirmishes. Sndan said Saturday it would actually intervene. "President Hafez Al Assad would abide hy its agreement

Arab mediation came as

Sudan's Minister for Pres-

idential Affairs Mehdi Ibra-

him Mohammad was in

Damascus, the Syrian capital

to urge Syria to intervene with its ally Egypt to cool tensions with Sudan.

According to officials in Damascus, Mr. Mohammad

delivered a letter to President

Hafez Al Assad Saturday

from Sndanese leader Omar

Hassan Al Bashir seeking Sy-

Jouhran Kourieh said Mr.

Presidential spokesman

rian intervention.

with Egypt to share Nile Rivpointed to the importance of er water hnt called on Cairo to respect an accord on ahandoning anything which might negatively affect the disputed border area as well. Egypt should commit itself to joint agreements as Sudan does vis-a-vis these agreements." Sudan's Irriga-

tion Minister Yaguh Ahu Shura said in the official Al Engaz Al Watani newspaper. He said Sudan was still

message, Mr. Kourieh said agreement signed by Cairo without giving further details and Khartoum in 1959, but about the messages. added that Egypt must Mr. Musa denied know-"equally commit itself to all ledge of Mr. Mohammad's agreements signed between

mission. He said Cairo is

Islamic militants battling Mr.

Muharak's secular regime.

awaiting the outcome of inthe border agreement." vestigations in Ethiopia to Sudan and Egypt have elashed over their horder determine its next moves. Yemen and the Arah League area of Halaih, along the Red have also been involved in Sea, where three Sudanese police officers and a soldier efforts to defuse the crisis. Egypt and Sndan have been at odds for years. Cairo alleges Khartoum supports

in 1899 during the period of British-Egyptian joint rule

Sudan's Islamic religious leader, Hassan Al Tourabi, has implied that Sudan might reconsider the Nile agreement in the face of Egyptian hostility, a threat that provoked a sharp reaction from

(Continued on page 7)

wounded in West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Five Palestinians and an Israeli were wounded in a West Bank clash on Saturday and another Israeli was stabbed and wounded in Jerusalem, Israeli aud Palestinian sources said. In the occupied West Bank

town of Jenin Israeli troops shot and wounded five Palestinians, including a 13-year-old boy hit in the head and seriously hurt, during a clash with demonstrators, Palestinian sources said. The Palestinian sources said the soldiers opened fire on the demonstrators after trying to disperse them with tear-gas and ruhber hullets. Hospital officials in Jenin said the seriously wounded boy was later moved to an Israeli hos-

Palestinians identified the boy as Wasim Ghawdreh. Palestinian reporters said Ghawdreh was wounded during a solidarity protest with Palestinian prisoners in the West Bank city of Jenin.

Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails started a hnnger-strike June 18, demanding their release as part of the Israel-PLO autonomy accord.

On Thursday inmates at six Israeli prisons ended their strike, but prisoners at three other prisons said they would continue to fast until Israel pledges to release all of the 5,500 Palestinians it holds.

An army statement said an Arab youth was seriously injured in Jenin Saturday when troops dispersed a large said.

Serbs assault town; Dutch

in the city with hurning tires. The army said the crowd was hurling stones and fire bombs at the soldiers.

The youth was brought to the Israeli hospital of Ramban in Haifa for treatment, the statement said. An army: spokesman added that an Israeli border policeman was slightly injured in the con-

In Jerusalem Saturday, a 27-year-old Jew was stabbed and slightly injured in the hand. The victim was taken to hospital and police said they suspected Palestinians in the attack.

A few dozen Palestinians were rounded up for questioning, a police statement

Turkish incursion displaces thousands

ANKARA (R) — About 3,000 Iraqi Kurdish civilians have fled a Turkish antiguerrilla operation in north Iraq despite signs the raid is winding down, an Iraqi Kurdish official said on Saturday.

They are not waiting about for the next bomh to fall on their head," Safeeu Dizayee, Ankara representative of the Kurdistan Democratie Party (KDP), told Reu-

The United States, the main component of a Western allied air force protecting Iraq's Kurds from Baghdad since the 1991 Gulf war, has strongly backed ally Turkey's

The drive against Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas in the forbidding mountains of northern Iraq involved up to 3,000 troops backed at its height by air power. The incursion began at dawn on Weduesday. Turkish military author-

ities said on Friday that small groups of soldiers hegan to eturn to Turkey. Fourteen rebels were killed

on Saturday just inside Turkey, bringing the PKK death toll in the operation to 104 for the loss of six Turkish soldiers, security officials Turkey, criticised by some

Western allies for harming Iraqi Kurds in a similar action earlier this year, has stressed several times it is being careful to protect civilians. Mr. Dizayee said the civi-

lians, from 18 villages in the Mezuri and Mirgah Sur dis-tricts near the Turkish border, had fled south and west to join relatives in other vil-

Most are members of the influential Barzani clan of KDP leader Massoud Barzani. The KDP nominally con-

trols the area. There were no reports of eiviliau deaths hut Mr. Dizayee said three Iraqi Kurds had been wounded. Two Iraqi Kurds abducted by Turkish troops in mid-week were still unaccounted for, he

said.

It was not clear if any one incident caused the villagers to flee. Iraqi Kurds have in the past left their homes in great numbers to escape Iraqi government forces.

Washington bas backed Turkey's operation as an act of legitimate self-defence against Kurdish extremists who often launch erossborder attacks from northern

Iraq.
"We fully support all legitimate Turkish efforts to combat the PKK, which as we've noted several times, is a vicious and deadly terrorist organisation that poses a genuine threat to security within Turkey," a State Department spokesman said.

"The Turkish government has further stated that the troops are now leaving northern Iraq and that the operation should be finished in a few days," spokesman Nicholas Burns said. Turkey drew the wrath of

some of its European allies when it sent up to 35,000 troops into northern Iraq in mid-March for an assault against the PKK that lasted six weeks.

Many PKK fighters evaded that push and soon reestablished their positions near the border to continue raiding Turkish security posts in their 11-year-old campaign for independence or autonomy in southeast Turkey.

(Continued on page 7)

More than 60 dead in Somali clan war MOGADISHU (R) — At least 61 people have heen involved in any massacre of involved involved in any massacre of involved involved involved in any massacre of involved in any massacre of

killed in central Somalia and the capital Mogadisbu in fighting between rival clan militias in the past week, Somalia sources and militia officials said on Saturday. Most of the fighting took place in central Somalia be-

committed to the Nile water

tween supporters of General Mohammad Farah Aideed's Habre Gedir clan and those of the Marehan clan of the Somali National Front (SNF) of late dictator Mohammad Siad Barre. At least 31 people were

killed in beavy mid-week fighting, SNF official Isse Ugas Tarahi told a news conference in north Mogadishu on Saturday. More than 50 people were

wounded, he added.

'Inter-clan skirmishes have risen in the three weeks since supporters of Aideed proclaimed him president of the whole of Somalia." Mr. Tarabi told reporters, "It is because people are a little more uncertain of political trends."

A spokesman for Gen. Aideed's Somali National Alliance (SNA) said that before the fighting broke out, mostly in Aideed-supporting villages in Galgadud, SNF militia had raided the area and killed 23 people to punish them for apparently back-

ing the wrong group.

Mr. Tarabi denied that, saying SNF militia were not "him president of the country.

were killed last month by the Egyptian army, according to Khartoum. part of its territory while Egypt says that the international border was established

the two countries, including

Sudan claims that Halaib is over the area.

Cairo.

However, Ahdul Basit Sabadrat, Sudan's information minister, played down

Somali sources said that among other deaths two people were killed and dozens wounded on Friday when rival factious within the SNA shot at each other along the road to the airport in Moga-

> Fighting then spread to the airport hnt died down in the night and on Saturday Mogadisbu remain calm.

> Mr. Tarabi said four Mareban elansmen had been killed in Mogadishu in the past three days, the body of one being found handcuffed on Mogadisbu beacb. He hlamed their deaths of Aideed militia.

The SNA official blamed "hlood feuds" for the fighting but Mr. Tarabi said jostling for political power led to the fresh wave of fighting.

In Mogadishn, Gen.
Aideed on a visit to his radio.

which he terms his information ministry, said that those who took part in the struggle for Somali emaneipation would be honoured.

He also pledged that "the fruits of their treason" would go to those Somalis who he said had sided with the Horn of African country's enemies.

Three weeks ago, after Gen. Aideed was ousted as SNA chairman by his onetime financier, Osman Atto. in a party coup, Gen. 'Aideed's followers declared

GRAND OPENING TODAY
POPEYES INTERNATIONAL





See Page Before Last

export of Iraqi oil."

CAIRO (AFP) - Egypt and

soldier killed in army fire SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb infantry attacked near the eastern Srebrenica enclave Saturday, temporarily surrounding U.N.

tion post before allowing them to retreat. One Dutch peacekeeper was killed when his group came under Bosnian govern-ment fire while withdrawing, said Jim Landale, a U.N.

peacekeepers in an observa-

spokesman in Sarajevo. The United Nations called in North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) warplanes to buzz the Srebrenica enclave, but did not ask them to strike, said Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward,

another U.N. spokesman. The afternoon infantry assault followed an upsurge in Bosnian Serb tank shelling of the enclave and Srebrenica. "safe area," which left at least three civilians dead and several others wounded since-

Col. Coward said Bosnian

Serb mfantry attacked on the

southeastern edge of the en-

clave, pushing north and

securing high ground above the main road. The U.N.

rounded during the assault, but the group of 10 to 15 Dutch peacekeepers was later allowed to withdraw. While withdrawing, the

"There is little doubt that the peacekeeper was shot by

peacekeepers came under

Bosnian government troops," said Alexander Ivanko, another U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo. "The observation post is very near the front line. It appears that while the Dutch were withdrawing from their post and moving north into that enelave, government troops opened fire on them."

It was the second U.N. observation post in the sonthem part of the enclave to be evacuated under fire in about a month. Serb forces have been slowly pushing north towards the enclave, apparently trying to force government forces and beacekeepers hack from a key position overlooking an east-west Serb supply route

on the southeastern edge of the enclave. Even by the standards of Bosnia's three-year-old war, fighting has worsened drama-

On Wednesday, a rebel Serh plane, violating the "nofly" zone over Bosnia, rocketed government-held territory in the northwest. On Thursday, bundreds of shells rained down on U.N. peacekeepers and civilians in the U.N. "safe area" of Srebrenica. On Friday, European Union (EU) peace envoy Carl Bildt twice escaped injury when Bosnian Serbs opened fire on a road on which be was travelling and later his U.N. helicopter.

tically over the last week.

Bosnian Serb forces launched a furious assault on Thursday morning sending rockets crashing into Srebrenica town followed by tank and artillery fire on front lines to the south and north of the town. Fighting slowed on Friday but overnight and during Saturday the enclave was rocked by hundreds of explosions.

have also targetted a U.N. compound in the enclave. The Dutch observation post attacked by the Serbs was in the south of the en-

In their offensive the Serbs

clave and also targetted on (Continued on page 7)

* Arafat wants to move PNC to Gaza Strip

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is seek-. ing to move the headquarters of the Palestine National Council (PNC) to the autonomous Gaza Strip, but many PNC members and the acting speaker of the council as well as several members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee are resisting the

Salim Zanoun, the acting speaker of the Amman-based council, was quoted as saying in the local press that Mr. Arafat, chairman of the PLO, had sent bim a message to prepare for the move.

But, Mr. Zanoun said he was

not favourable to the move if only because moving the PNC to the Gaza Strip at this point in time would deprive it of independence because the territory remains under Israeli control.

According to Palestinian sources, most Amman-based members of the Palestinian parliament-in-exile are also

opposed to the move. Mr. Arafat is under Israeli pressure to convene the PNC and amend phrases in the PLO Charter that implicitly call for the elimination of the Jewisb state.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has reportedly told Mr. Arafat that an Israeli military redeployment in the West Bank - which is under negotiation now would come only after the

phrases bas been removed. Mr. Rabin and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimoo Peres first raised the issue of eliminating the phrases in a meeting in Paris in mid-1994

ANKARA (AFP) - Tur-

key's courtship of the Euro-pean Union (EU) suffered an

unexpected setback this week

with the government's failure

to push through a democratic

reform of the country's con-

stitution inherited from the

Prime Minister Tansu Cil-

er was forced Thursday night

to shelve indefinitely the re-

form of about 20 articles of

the constitution promulgated

in 1982 by the regime brough.

to power by a military coup in

Amongst other things, the

amendments would have

given civil servants the same

right as other workers to join

a trade union and would have

allowed unions and other

associations to engage in poli-

Another amendment

Yet another called for the

supression of the constitu-

tion's preamble praising the

Though the reform has not

been completely abandoned and could be revived at the

next parliamentary session in

September, its prospects look

increasingly gloomy at this

None of the amendments

mustered the two thirds

majority (300 votes out of

450) required for automatic

adoption of a constitutional

would have lowered the age

for voting or being elected to

tical activity.

public office.

1980 coup d'etat.

last military regime.

Turkish reform fiasco

threatens Ciller plans

The PLO chairman, who accepted the Israeli demand, has since been sounding out PNC members to convene a meeting in Gaza, where is based since July 1994 after launching self-rule in the

Gaza Strip and Jericho in

May,
But many PNC members,
including those who support
the September 1993 Israel-PLO self-rule accord, oppose the move. They argue that convening the council in the Gaza Strip cannot come as long as Israel continues to

occupy Palestinian lands.
In his comments carried in the local press on Saturday Mr. Zanoun said any transfer of the PNC from Amman should come only after twothirds of the 18 members of the PLO Executive Commit-

tees agrees to the move.
"Moving the PNC to the Gaza Strip now will deprive the council of its independ-Mr. Zanoun was

quoted as saying.

According to Mr. Zanoua, several PLO Executive Committee members, including Mahmoud Ahhas, architect of the self-rule accord, also oppose the move. He did not name others.

Palestinian sources said it was highly unlikely that Mr. Arafat would secure enough support in the full Executive Committee for his proposal. At least six members have

quit the committee.
"Furthermore, most PNC members, including a good number of independents, remain opposed to any move to tamper with the council, which they see as the last vestige of independent Palestinian decision making," said a PNC member resident in Amman.

If an amendment garners between 270 and 300 votes,

then a referendum must be

If there are fewer than 270

On Thursday, a key

votes in favour the reform is

amendment to allow govern-

ment employees to join a

union with the right to strike

and hargain collectively was

rejected with only 225 votes

surprise because the amend-

ment had been submitted

jointly by the two partners in

the ruling coalition and by

These three parties: Ms.

Ciller's True Path Party

(DVP), the social-democratie

People's Republican Party

(CHP) of Deputy Prime

Minister Hikmet Cetin and

the Motherland Party

(ANAP) of Mesut Yilmaz

have a total of 344 seats.

of the DYP and ANAP de-

puties defected and voted in-

stead with the Islamic

Prosperity Party (Refah) in a

bloc hostile to the reforms.

warned in advance that it

would oppose the constitu-

tional reform because the

project did not modify an

article upholding the secular

Personal rivalry between Ms. Ciller and Mr. Yilmaz

further contributed to the fai-

nature of the state.

lure of the reform.

The Refah Party had

But the most conservative

the main opposition party.

The rejection came as a

in favour.

beld to decide the issue.



KINKEL IN BEIRUT: German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel (centre) on Friday tours the war-devastated city has been launched. Mr. Kinkel was in Beirut for a short visit

for talks with Lebanese leaders on the Middle East peace process, bilateral relations and German role in the reconstruction of Lebanon (AFP photo)

Gaza gourmets spoilt for choice in restaurant boom

his regulars.

GAZA CITY (AFP) -Where once there was only hummus and felafel, today Gaza's gastronomers can pick from an unprecedented range of cuisines as restaurant after

restauraant opens up. Thirteen months of Palestinian autonomy has seen a

boom in eating-out.

During 27 years of Israeli occupation, which ended in May 1994, the hours of darkness meant curfew and therefore either bed or elandestine resistance time. Today Gazans relish an

evening out like only those who have long been deprived

"When we opened in 1992 we were the only restaurant on the sea-front," recalled

Yemen says

it has rebuilt

80% of

war

damage

caused by

"Lido" manager Nader Al Shurafa. But he has long since lost

his monopoly and moans that every new restaurant takes away bis diners. . More than 20 restaurants

have started up, leading to some lively competition. In June "La Mirage" opened its doors, just a few dozen metres down the road from the Lido.

Now 22 waiters in yellow shirts and black tronsers serve an average of 250 customers each day.

"I decided to call my restaurant La Mirage and not the Le Mirage to pull in diners," said manager Bassel Eleiwa. "People are drawn to On the menu, Gaza's bigh

"I called my restaurant af-ter the name of the town in society goes for the fish with spachetti northern Israel because the Mr. Eleiwa, a eanny Palestinians recall it with nosbusinessman, already lists Palestinian International talgia and because that's where my mother is from," Cooperation and Planning. said owner Ali Ahu Middein.

Minister Nabil Shaath among "All my cooks and waiters used to work in Israel. They He bas also taken local are real professionals," he customs into account and divided his establishment into three separte areas: a terrace

Beneath a palm roof, cus-tomers sit at the white tables, occasionally looking out across the Mediterraneau waves, or drawing on a nargile pipe.
"I lived in the United

States for 12 years and I never saw such a beautiful place," said one man,

Opening of Nefertari's Tomb

overlooking the sea reserved for married couples, a com-

munal dining room and a flat

But the coast road is lined

with cars humper to humper

every evening heading for

another restaurant, the

roof top for men only.

tomb of Queen Nefertari will soon open to the public, with visitors required to wear masks and shoe-coverings to protect the vivid yet delicate

SANAA (R) - Yemeo has But the imminent arrival of rebuilt 80 per cent of areas and services damaged during a two-month civil war in vincin Aden-hased southern secessionists were crushed by forces loyal to Sanaa, President Ali Abdullah Saleh on

Ramses II, who reigned over Egypt from 1304 B.C. to 1236 B.C., one of the greatest periods of ancient Egyptian

a mountain in the arid Valley of the Queens, the royal hurial ground in Luxor for the wives and sons of the pharaohs. Early on, grave robbers

stole her mummy. But her presence is felt in the tomh's paintings - some that look like they were crafted only years ago. The murals show the queen with a serene face wearing a white dress topped with a seethrough cape. In other images, she stands gracefully in thin slippers with nails and toes painted white, or dres-

On the ceiling, yellow stars were painted on a blue background to represent the skies through which her soul The fragility of the tomb's

Mignel Angel Corzo, director of the J. Paul Getty Conservation Institute, which mounted a major project to save the tomb, said if 125 people stayed in the tomb for. an hour, their breatbing would produce the equivalent of three gallons of water poured on the walls.

Laura, beaded the restoration team, recommended that fewer than 10 people he allowed in every hour to keep the humidity down. He also suggested draping transparent curtains across the paintings once tourists arrive in

The tomb was discovered in 1904 by Italian archaeologist Ernesto Schiaparelli. Many of the 160 square metres of paintings were already in bad shape - seeping water dried into salt crystals that broke off the plaster. Parts of the paintings eroded

Past preservation efforts

-paintings together eventually pulled down the colours be: cause the fabric was too

In 1986, the Getty institute, based in Marina del Rey, California, began the latest conservation effort.

methods were employed, inthe tomb's original material and mixing it with a little water. The scientists brushed away dust and polished the paintings with special solvents. About 10,000 strips of fine-grained Japanese mulberry bark paper were applied to the cracks.

Antiquities Organisation, insists the tomh is in good enough condition to allow for the opening. In addition, he

has scared away many tourists, costing Egypt an esti-mated \$3 billion in lost re-

NEWS IN BRIEF

Libya welcomes Hurd's departure from office

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libya on Friday welcomed the departure of Douglas Hurd as the head of the British Foreign Office but warned that his success would be put to the test over the Lockerbie blast. Former Foreign Secretary Hurd, who resigned his post last week, "represented racism and hostility to Libya, the Arabs and Islam, believing it would boost his prestige, and has just ended up in the dustbin of history," the official Libyan news agency JANA said. It did not, however, welcome Mr. Hurd's successor Malcolm Rifkind. "The appointment of a Jew to the Foreign Office for the first time since the Second World War proves that London no longer takes into account the feelings of Arabs," the agency said. Mr. Rifkind would be "put to the test" over his ability to put British interests first, "especially in the policy he adopts to bring about a rapprochement with the Libyan people and to resolve the Lockerbic affair," it added.

Iraq, Sudan sign oil cooperation deal

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq and Sndan have signed an agreement to ensure the implementation of joint oil projects, the government newspaper Al Jumhouriya reprojects, the government newspaper Al Jumnourrya reported on Saturday. It said the deal focused on exploration, establishment of refineries and training of experts in the oil industry. Iraqi Oil Minister Amir Mohammad Rashid and the visiting Sndanese Energy and Mining Minister Salaheddin Mohammad Karrar signed the agreement, the paper said. General Rashid told Al Jumhouriya that Iraq was keen to boost "technical cooperation with Sudan in was keen to boost "technical cooperation with Sudan in line with the distinguished relations between President Saddam Hussein and General Omar Hassan Al Bashir." be said cooperation between the two countries had resulted in new gains for Sudan's oil industry. He did not elaborate.

Mr. Karrar met President Saddam on Thursday and handed him a message from Gen Bashir.

Hizbollah reelects secretary-general

BEIRUT (AP) - The pro-Iran Hizboliah has reelected its secretary-general, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, for a new two-year term. A terse Hizboliah, statement published Saturday in several Beirut daily newspapers said the reelection came in a meeting of the party's Shoura Council, a 12-man body that governs the Shiite Muslim fundamentalist group. The statement did not say where or when the meeting took place. Sheikh Nasrallah, 42, had succeeded Sheikh Ahbas Musawi, who was killed with his wife and a five-year-old son in an Israeli helicopter ambush in South Lebanon Feh. 16, 1992. The bearded, bespectacled Nasrallah is close to the so-called pragmatists in Iran, led by President Hashemi Rafsanjani. He also maintains good ties with Syria, Lebanon's main power broker. Under his leadership, Hizbollah has upgraded its guerrilla war against Israeli troops and allied militiamen in an occupied border enclave in South Lebanon.

Egypt appeals for ald to remove landmines

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt has asked Western nations for \$142 million to help pay for the removal of 23 million landmines left in the country from World War II, an Egyptian diplomat said Saturday. Munir Zahran, Cairo's permanent representative to the United Nations in Geneva, told the daily newspaper Al Ahram the government wanted the money from the countries that planted the mines and would provide \$50 million itself. Nearly all the mines were left by Britain and Germany in the north of Egypt's western desert around, Al Alamein; scepe of a decisive tank battle in 1942 which stopped German and Italian forces advancing on Cairo. Mr. Zahran was speaking after attending an international conference in Geneva on removing mines around the world.

Britain, Egypt and U.S. hold Red Sea games

CAIRO (AFP) - Britain, Egypt and the United Stastes were holding the most important naval manoeuvres ever in the Red Sea, Egyptian newspapers reported Saturday. The week-long military exercise, which began on Wednesday involves warships from all three countries and Egyptian fighter jets in mock fighting north of the Halaib border zone which Egypt and Sudan dispute, the newspapers said. Sudan on Friday said the military exercise, which began at the Red Sea port of Safaga, was a threat to its security and accused Britain and the United States of plotting with Egypt to destabilise its Islamist military government. Khartoum has been involved in a war of words with Cairo since Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak implicated Sudan in a failed attempt to assassinate him in Addis Abah on

De Klerk seeks 'mutually profitable' ties with Tunis

TUNIS (AFP) - South African Vice President Frederik de Klerk said Friday his country was ready to establish close economie ties with Tunisia in "mutually profitable" areas. Winding up a 24-hour visit to the country the former president told reporters it was necessary to "restructure" relations between the two countries before the first meeting of a joint commission scheduled for November in South Africa. During his visit he met President Zine Al Ahidine Ben Ali and a group of Tunisian businessmen headed by the head of the employers' association UTICA, Hedi Jilani. Mr. De Klerk said Pretoria would examine the feasibility of a direct air link between Tunisia and South Africa. effectively linking the northern and sonthern extremities of the continent. Tunis was the last stage of Mr. De Klerk's tour which took in Egypt and Switzerland where he attended the 50th anniversary of the creation of the United Nations.

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North and South Yemen merged in an uneasy powersharing unity in May 1990. Four years later an independent state with Aden as its capital was declared in the south but was crushed when Mr. Saleh's forces captured Aden. At the parade, Mr. Saleh

the damage caused by the

He gave no further details.

Official sources said the

rehuilding covered damaged

infrastructures and houses

mainly in the southern and

eastern provinces forming the

former South Yemen.

conferred medals on the names of about 3,000 military "martyrs" killed during the

stirs debate on costs of tourism

tourists has set off a debate between those eager to rejuvenate Egypt's sagging tourism industry and others who worry that exposure to the masses will destroy the

queen's legacy.
Nefertari, or "the most beautiful," was the wife of Addressing a military parade in Sanaa to mark the occasion, labelled by official media as "The Day of the Great Victory," Mr. Saleh said: "The government has civilisation. rehuilt about 80 per cent of

Her tomb was bewn inside

sed in different wigs and ear-

paintings has led some archaeologists to warn that even the surgical masks and shoc coverings tourists must wear will not adequately protect the murals.

Italian archaeologist Paolo Mora, who with his wife, November.

"The fat people will rub against the paintings and will touch the walls," he said. There are some very narrow corridors."

into coloured dust.

contributed to their decay.

Several restoration

Abdul Halim Noureddin, director of the Egyptian

said, "we want the tourism." A three-year campaign by militants to overthrow Egypt's secular government

Mr. Noureddin said an inspector will keep an eye on visitors inside the tomb. He promised only eight people would be allowed to enter every hour and said temperature and humidity would be monitored.

"Nobody can really care for our antiquities more than us," he said.

JORDAN	TIMES	DAILY GU	IDE AND	CALENDAR

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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY**

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Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121 Highway Police
Traffic Police . 843402 . 896390 Public Security Department 630321 Hotel Complaints
Price Complaints
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Abdali Telephone Repairs 651101 HOSPITALS

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Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560 Ibn Sina Hospital (09)966732 Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Arab Centre for Heart and Specia

Princes Haya Hospital (03)314111

Greek Catholic Hospital The Al Nafees Hospital

ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ)

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Regent receives credentials of new envoys

AMMAN (Petra) - Eight Bruyn of South Africa and newly appointed amhas- Ade Somintre of Indonesia. sadors to Jordan Saturday presented their credentials to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, at ceremonies held at

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ET PRICES

Serving as resident ambassadors were Henry De

Presenting their credentials as non-resident ambassadors were Ernesto Rogalis of Venezuela, Daniel Buchan of Croatia, Hugh Swift of Ireland, Nguyen Kai of Vietnam, Cristos

Ioannou of Cyprus and Hector Cardenas of Mexico.

The ceremonies were attended by Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qassem, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Foreign Minister Abdul

Amman to host Asian trade meeting

GENEVA (Petra) - Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf, the Kingdom's permanent representative at the United Nations European headquarters in Geneva, said Jordan welcomed a proposal by the ministers of industry and trade in Asian countries in bold a meeting in Amman between January 7 and 12 of next year.

Sharif Fawwaz was speaking during a special meeting attended by the Asian group to discuss the nature, venue and date of the proposed

meeting. The meeting is considered part of the ongoing preparations for the ninth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) meeting which convenes in the spring of next year.

In his address to the meeting, Sharif Sharaf said that His Majesty King Hussein was keen on backing measures on economic development and cooperation among Asian nations.

Asian ministers of industry and trade held meetings in Jakarta, Colombo, Baghdad, Dakka, and Pyong Yang between 1967 and 1991.

According to Sharif Fawwaz, the 1996 conference will address global development policies, international trade, development schemes and the work of world economic organisations.

He said at least 45 ministers from Asian nations will



Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf

take part in the 1996 conference which will be preceded by a meeting of senior officials in these countries.

PSD gears up security for municipal elections

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - With the approach of the July 11 municipal elections, security measures are in top gear to ensure that the process runs smoothly before, during and after the elections, security sources said Saturday.

Colonel Mahmoud Obeidat, director of the Public Relations Department at the Public Security Department (PSD), said that for the past three months the department has worked on security measures for the elections.

"We are fully prepared for any sort of disturbance, interference: or language in carpeting (as Department (GDD) officials councils.

with the process," Col. Obeidat said. Col. Obeidat said he was confident that the elections

would run smoothly. According to the police official, the only possible disturbances might occur when the official results are announced.

. "We have not experienced any serious incidents in the past except celebratory shootings, but we intend to prevent those, as well," the official added.

He said that gunshot incidents usually occur in places familiar to the authorities, hut he did not elaborate.

Meanwhile, Civil Defence

Saturday said they are prepared in handle any emergency which may arise on election day.

He added that all CDD employees have been required to report to work for the week prior to election day, and that no vacation requests would be approved until after the elections.

A new municipalities law enacted last year set a unified date for the elections of the now 259 councils in the

Last year, the government dissolved all elected city councils, substituting them with temporary appointed

Government takes major steps to address water shortages into the future

Ministry signs 3 contracts for studies in water sector situation

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The government on Saturday took several major measures to advance efforts to address water sbortages in the medium-and long-term hy awarding contracts for detailed studies and raising a tocal loan for projects in the water sector.

The value of the three contracts signed by Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat with representatives of foreign and local firms as well as financing agencies was JD 4.5 million. The first involved a

"hydraulic analysis of Greater Amman's Water supply system" given to a German firm, Deutsche Consult, in collaboration with a local company at a cost of JD 1.5 million. The study is financed by a grant from the German govern-

The grant raised to 21 million marks (about JD 10.5 million) the German grant to Jordan's water sector since 1990. The German government has also extended 185 million marks (about JD 87.5 million) in loans to the water sector during the same

The second contract was for a study on a conveyor system to hring water from Qa Disi near the border with . Saudi Arabia in the south to

The JD 738,540 study was awarded jointly to Harza Engineering of the U.S. and Gihbs of Britain -- with a local affiliate - under a

By a Jordan Times

Staff Reporter

where consumer products

and household items are sold

at unbelievably below-cost

prices - is slowly unfold-

ing, with dozens of cases of

defaulting merchants being reported by bankers and

Several of the "burnt mar-

ket" merchants - con-men

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some of them are believed to

have fled the country, the

bankers and businessmeo

At least one of them was

recently arrested in Egypt by

back to Jordan to face trial.

businessmen.

grant given by the Overseas Development Administration (ODA), an arm of the British government.

The ODA also financed another study on the Qa Disi reservoir dealing with an actual assessment of the acquifier.

That study was completed this month.

Qa Disi is a vital component in Jordan's mediumterm plans to address the water shortage in Amman. The underground reservoir contains what experts describe as the "oldest fossil water" on earth suitable for

But overpumping from the acquifier and the use of Disi for agricultural purposes have been severely criticised by experts who point out that the reserves are not replenishable.

The third contract signed on Saturday was to build a workshop for the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) in Russeifa outside Amman. A local firm was given the

JD 2.25 million contract. Financing for the project came from an \$7 million grant aid from the Japanese government. The aid agreement will be signed by the head of the Water Authority of Jordan and Japanese officials in Tokyo this week.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Basel Jardaneb and Mr.Irsheidat also signed another agreement with a local consortium of banks to raise JD 15 million in loans to be used in the water sec-

The contracts for studies and the work shop as well as



Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat and German officials Sunday sign a contract for a hydraulic analysis of Greater Amman's water supply system (Petra

the loan agreement are seen as taking the authorities a step closer to realising solutions to the acute water shortages in Jordan through setting up new projects and making available more

water to residents. The analysis to be conducted on the Amman water supply system falls in line with the government's plan to replace the old worn-out pipelines in the network to avoid leakages, which, at some points, are estimated at

half the pumped water. The study will come up with an inventory of existing facilities, analysis of population densities and water supply situation within Amman Governorate, and identify problems and solu-

'Burnt market' capers begin to unfold

It will also include recommendations on how the present system could be restructured, monitoring could be improved and the best costefficiency could be assured. The study will also include

"rehabilitation" strategy and cost assessment as well as a definition of priority In the case of the Disi

acquifier, a planned project calls for laying a pipeline to carry up to 100 million cuhic metres of water every year from the reservoir to Amman.

The study awarded on Saturday involves the first stage of the project, and is expected to be completed in nine months starting in August.

Project designs and tender documents etc. will be bandled in the second stage.

The Russeifa workshop is aimed at increasing the efficiency of WAJ maintenance staff and improving their capabilities in repair water installations and equipment. The Japanese grant will

include part of the equipment to be used at the work-The government has drawn up projects worth more than JD 500 million in

The projects are expected to be presented at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit to be held in Amman in

the water sector.

Suez Canal Authority agrees to discount on some Aqaba-bound cargo — ports official

AMMAN (J. T.) -- Director grain, both imported and start today. General of the Jordanian Ports Corporation (JPC) Dureid Mahasneh, Saturday returned to Amman following talks in Cairo on organising maritime transport between the Suez Canal and

During the three-day talks the two sides agreed on a special discount from the Suez Canal Authority (SCA) on fees normally levied on Aqaba-bound cargo vessels crossing the canal.

Shipping agents have been concerned that with the signing of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel last October, shipping activities to Aqaba would decline drastically as access to subcontinent destinations would be opened up on less expensive routes via Israeli ports on the Mediterranean.

The proposed discount will be 20 per cent on containers and 10 per cent on

exported, according to Dr.

Mahasneh. Dr. Mahasneh said that the two sides discussed the prospect of a partial exemption on canal toll fees for Jordanian exports of phosphates and potash and added that the SCA is expected to forward a decision on this issue hy the middle of this

According to Dr. Mahasneh, such a discount would mean an estimated savings of several million dollars.

He said that the JPC will sonn announce reductions on fees for ships docking at Aqaba port in encourage maritime trade into and out of the port city.

Meanwhile a Jordanian-Egyptian technical committee Saturday met in Amman to discuss economic and _trade__ links _ between _ the _ countries and to prepare for a ministerial meeting due in .

Mohammed Smadi, Ministry of Industry and Trade secretary general who led the Jordanian team to Saturday's meeting, told Jordan Television that the two sides discussed means of promoting trade exchanges and the removal of obstacles in the movement of goods inm each other's markets.

These meetings are in implementation of the resolutions passed by the Jor-danian-Egyptian Higher Committee which convened in Cairo two months ago under the co-chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and his Egyptian · counterpart, Atef Sidki, said Dr.Smadi.

Mahmoud.

according to sources. The alleged background of Today's ministerial comthe man is similar to many mittee will be co-chaired by others: Buying consumer Minister of Industry and products and household Trade Ali Abul Ragbeb and his Egyptian counterpart, Mahmoud Mohammad

items from wholesalers and would seek hig quantities of AMMAN - The fallout of the so-called "burnt market"

Some traders have suc- had been taken in by the "Liquidity is the key to the cessfully managed to continue the business despite the actual losses they suffered because they skillfully circulated others' funds to keep creditors happy, according to reports. .

For ohvious reasons, none of them has been identified by name.

The case of the man extradited from Cairo involves up to JD 2.5 million in televisions, refrigerators, radios and other electronic and electrical appliances,

according to reports. Interpol upon a request by_ The reports said the man Jordanian police and sent used to approach whole-salers and dealers and do a few legitimate deals with prompt payment.

"Then comes the bust," said a trader who is familiar with the case. "The man

dealers at regular prices goods and guarantee payagainst post-dated cheques ment with a post-dated and selling them at half cheque. Obviously the prices in the market for cash. wholesalers and dealers who prompt initial dealings did not hesitate to supply the goods against post-dated

> "Obviously at some point the going got ton rough for the man after his commitments got ton big for any more stalling," said the trad-er, who did not want to be identified. "He ran away to

Police traced him to Egypt and requested help from Interpol, which arrested the man and sent him back."

According to the trader, it is highly unlikely that the man would be able to settle the payments.

Even if he manages that, be is still liable for prosecution for issuing cheques without balances, lawyers

hanking executive, "it is only one case among dozens, perhaps hundreds that he had heard about.

'hurnt market'," said the executive, who also did not want to be identified. "If you have liquidity legitimate or illegitimate -

then you are in a good position in the market, and can easily move Ibrahim's hat to Osama and vice-versa," said the executive, using a popular expression. There is not estimate avail-

able on the amount involved in the burnt market, but market observers say it could run inm tens of millions of dinars. They cite the amount

involved in bounced cheques reported hy banks as one of the indicators of the phenomena.

According to banking experts and bosinessmen, the "burnt market" has not

According to a senior only led to serious losses to some of them but has also depressed the market since many consumers turned to the cut-throat prices the market offered.

"Can you imagine anyone coming to the regular market and paying JD 450 for a television set when he could get the same set for around JD 200 or JD 250 in the burnt market," asked a dealer of electrical appliances in downtown Amman.

"It is we, those who have invested our own savings and loans at high interest rates from the banks. who are suffering." added the

Market analysts say consumer awareness is the key to solving the problem. But in a market like Jordan's, where the average man's purchasing power is limited. it is very difficult to raise consumer awareness at this point in time, they say.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed times and places with the concerned institutions.

"Gettysburg" (parts I & II), at the American Center at 5:00 p.m. Japanese film, with subtitles in Arabic, "Bu Su," at the Samir Rifai Auditorium of the University of Jordan, at 5:30 p.m.

MUSIC RECITAL

By Munir Bashir at Darat Al Funun at 7:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

Paintings by Muhannad Bushnaq at Balqa Art Gallery in Fuheis.

Paintings by Adnan Yahyah at Darat Al Funun

Paintings by Bernadette Gerges and Rita Gerges, entitled, "Lebanon Tomorrow," at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Paintings by Jordanian Artist Muhammad Majali at the Phoenix Gallery of Culture and

Works hy Iraqi artist Tahija Al Hakim at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French

Works by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali Gallery.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rawabdeh reviews cooperation with Islamic cultural group

AMMAN (Petra) - Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh Saturday met with Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation Abdul Aziz Tuweijiri. Dr. Tuweijiri voiced his appreciation of the support extended by the Jordanian government to his organisation, whether in terms of active participation in its programmes and activities or in terms of Jordan honouring its financial commitments in the organisation. Dr. Tuweijiri also commended the conperation existing between the organisation and the national committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) on the one hand and the Ministry of Education on the other, praising Jordan's distinguished role in implementing educational projects and programmes.

Jordan, Oman discuss educational assistance

AMMAN (Petra) - Ministry of Education Secretary General Izzat Jaradat Saturday said the ministry was ready to offer every possible assistance and expertise to Oman in educational fields. Meeting with Chairman of the Omani Contracting and Secondments Committee Ahmad Zubeidi, who is currently visiting the Kingdom to interview Jordanian teachers selected to work in Oman.

Tarshihi heads for conference in Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) - Director General of the Palestinian Affairs Department Ibrahim Tarshihi Monday left for Cairo to head Jordan's delegation at a conference of supervisors of Palestinian affairs in Arab countries. The week-long conference will discuss issues pertaining to the Palestinian cause, including Israeli settlement activities in the occupied territories, the financial conditions of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), as well as the economic and social conditions in the Palestinian territories.

New road expected to ease Amman traffic pressure

Sbaker Saturday opened a new road recently bnilt by the Greater Amman Municipality, linking Wadi Al Qaisieh near the Ras Al Ain Qaisieh near the Ras Al Ain million to build, was new route to the district with Queen Zein Al designed and completed in parts of Amman.

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Sharaf road. Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Following Following the official opening ceremony Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi told Jordan Television that the road, which cost JD 1.6

two months. The new road runs parailel to Zahran Street and is expected to reduce traffic from the fourth circle to the eighth circle by providing a new route to the western

Contractors call for active private, public sector role in MENA summit

AMMAN (Petra) - The Jordanian Contractors' Association (JCA) Saturday called for the active conperation of private and public sectors in the preparations for the October Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit in Amman.

A large part of the proposed projects to be submitted to the conference are infrastructure schemeswhich means that the contractors' sector should play a significant role in the organisation of the meeting, said JCA president Mohammad Murad.

The Ministry of Planning has compiled proposals for 30 economic projects estimated at a cost of \$4 billion to be submitted to the con-

The Jordanian contractors have stepped up their contacts with Arab and foreign delegations planning on attending the conference to ensure their full participation in the discussions, said Mr. Murad.

Not only has the JCA encouraged Arab and foreign husinessmen to take an active part in the coming summit, but it has also participated in all governmentsponsored preparations for the summit and has arranged for the submission of specific projects to foreign investors, said Mr. Murad.

He urged the government to involve Arab organisations in the preliminary process and to advance . inter-Arab coordination in

matters related to the confer-

ence to ensure its success.

In remarks about the preparations for the summit in October, Jordanian economist Bassam Saket said that although the pace of preparations is generally satisfactory, greater effort on the part of the private sector is needed to boost those of the public sector.

Dr. Saket, who is also

board chairman of Jordan

Cement Factories, said all proposals for economic development should be

linked to the export market. Proposals from the public sector deal with infrastructure, roads, water dams. transport, telecommunications, railways, electricity and tourism.

Peace talks postponed amid new tension, violence in Karachi

KARACHI (AFP) — Talks between the Pakistani government and the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) aimed at ending the bloodshed here, were postponed Saturday as fresh violence claimed more lives in the

troubled city.

The delay in the talks. scheduled for Sunday in Islamabad, came after a local MOM leader died in police custody amid claims by the ethnic-based movement that he was tortured by police.

Both government officials and the MQM, which represents Urdu-speaking migrants from India who came here after the 1947 partition of the sub-continent, confirmed the postponement of

the meeting.
In Islamabad, Law Minister Nabi Dad Khan, who was to head the government negotiating team appointed by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, abruptly cancelled a scheduled news conference on the talks.

this aides confirmed that Sunday's planned meeting with the MQM had been put off until a date to be set. adding that the government would issue a statement at a

later stage to explain the reasons for the delay. Ajmal Dehlvi, MQM's chief negotiator, meanwhile said here that the government had proposed that the two delegations should meet for talks in the national capit-

But he said he was uncertain whether the date would be acceptable to his party and added that the MQM would make a decision after receiving instructions from its chief, Altaf. Hussain, who lives in self-exile in London.

His colleague, Tariq Javed. who is a part of the five-member MQM negotiating team, said it would require lot of courage on our part" to sit down with the government amid the prevailing ten-

sions dividing the two sides.
The second postponement in the week since the two sides agreed to enter talks on restoring peace in Karachi came as MQM called for a two-day mourning period from Sunday to protest the death of an MQM official in police custody.

The party alleged that Aslam Subzwari, a local MQM leader, had been tortured to death by police. while the government said Mr.Sabzwari, 35, had died of a heart attack. The MQM has dismissed the explanation and said his body bore signs of excessive torture.

A senior government offi-cial said a judicial probe had been ordered. The mourning period

raised fears of an escalation of the viotence in Karachi, as previous such events have led to widespread bloodshed in the city, which has seen more than 900 killings this year.

now in Malaysia on an official visit, has blamed MQM for "terrorism" in Karachi, while the party accuses her government of victimising the Urdu-

speaking community. Fresh violence meanwhile claimed three more lives in Sind province, of which Karachi is the capital, following the announcement of the postponement of the groundbreaking talks without a new

date being set.

Snipers killed two people in this strife-torn city, while a police constable was killed in Hyderabad when gunmen attacked a police station, officials here said.

Another policeman was ininred in the raid on the police post in Hyderabad, 160 kilometres (100 miles) north-

The new deaths came after seven people were killed in Karachi Friday at the start of a second two-day weekly strike which is part of a phased protest strategy un-veiled by the MQM last monto in reaction to the alleged gang rape of a girl and the recent murder of a party leader.

Karachi, the country's largest city and its economic powerhouse, remained paralysed by the strike Saturday, while reports said that life had virtually ground to a standstill in Hyderabad as partial strikes were called in several other towns.

"Sporadic heavy shooting Prime Minister Bhutto. has been going on in Hyder abad since late Friday night, a resident said by telephone. The talks were set after a

climb-down by both sides --Islamabad giving up its stand that MOM cadres first surrender arms and renounce violence, and the MOM putting aside its insistence that the government talk directly with the MOM chief in Lon-

Ms. Bbutto said Saturday that talks with an opposition party were only "the starting point" in easing sectarian vio-lence in Karachi, apparently unaware that the meeting had postponed.

The talks with the MQM would be conducted by a committee formed under Pakistan's Law Ministry, she told a news conference.

"We assume this is the starting point. They will give certain demands and the government will give certain de-mands," she told a predeparture press conference in Kuala Lumpur. Ms. Bhullo mainlained

that the fighting was isolated in just one district in Karachi, and said the rest of her country still had economic opportunities to offer foreign inves-

"As far as the city of Karachi is concerned, there are five districts and the Altaf group holds sway in only one district," she said Saturday, referring to the MQM leader Altaf Hussain, currently in self-exile in London.



This photo taken from a Japanese television station NHK broadcast shows North Korean de facto leader Khn Jong-D making his

the first anniversary of the death of his father Kim Il-Sung. Kim Il-Sung died July 8, 1994.
At left is an unidentified officer of the Korean
Peoples Army (AFP photo)

Kim Jong-Il attends opening of . memorial palace for Kim-Il-Sung

SEOUL (AFP) - North Korea's reclusive leader Kim Jong-Il Saturday made his second high-profile appearance in two days to dedicate an eternal shrine containing his father's embalmed remains, television reports

In front of thousands of North Koreans, and accompanied by senior party officials, the junior Kim, 53, cut a red ribbon to the Kumsusan Palace, kim-Il Sung's old residence on the northern edge

of Pyongyang. The massive eeremony marked the first anniversary of the death of Kim Il-Sung. and officially opened to pub-lic view the red-flag-drapped mummified remains of the man known as the world's last Stalinist leader.

"The plaza of the palace was crowded with tens of thousands of people from all walks of life," the North's state run Korea Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo said.

'Comrade Kim Jong-Il, together with the senior party and state officials, made a bow to President Kim-Il Sung in great reverence," KCNA said.

The younger Kim, who appeared Friday night at a massive memorial service, looked fit and attentive on both occasions, though he remained silent, viewers of both ceremonies shown by Japanese TV stations, said.

At the time of the elder Kim's funeral last year, Kim Jong-Il bad looked pale, thin and haggard, causing spe-culation that he was too ill to assume the leadership of North Korea for which be bad been groomed for the past 20 years.

However, analysts here and in Tokyo said that the bespectacled Kim Jong-Il's relatively robust appearance at the anniversary, speeches hailing him as "another Kim Il-Sung" and other hints indicate he may soon formally take over the leadership of the fanatically isolationist

The positions of state president and party general secretary, the two top posts held by Kim Il-Sung, have remained vacant since the elder Kim's death, reportedly of a heart attack July 8 last

state.

Kim-Jong-Il bas in the ensuing 12 months remained million-strong armed forces, with diplomats from Pyongyang saying only that it was not seemly for his to assume formal leadership while the country was in deep mourn-

ing. On Friday a report released by a South Korean government-funded think tank said that North Koreans were rebearsing a song celebrating Kim Jong-Il's elevation to the post of party general

The song has not yet been sung in publie, but contains the phrase; "Marshal Kim Jong-Il has ben upheld as Workers Party General Secretary - Rejoice and celebrate," the Institute for National Unification said.

The institute also said inscriptions on statues of the elder Kim were being changed to read "Beloved Father Kim Il-Snng" instead of Great Leader.

But Saturday KCNA said the crowds flocking to the giant bronze statue of Kim II-Sung on Pyongyang's Manso Hill, as well as to the Kumsusan, were hailing the older Kim as "Immortal" and as "The Great Leader."

Kris Aquino baptizes son in media glare

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MANILA, Philippines (AP)
— Former President Corazon Aquino snubbed the baptism of the son of her daughter Kris, who is living with a married actor nearly twice her age. Mrs. Aquino has vehemently opposed her daughter's romance with actor Philip Salvador. He is seeking annulment of his marriage to his Filipino wife, who now lives in New York. "We just want a peaceful baptism, please," Salvador pleaded to a horde of reporters, photographers and television crews who flocked to the Santuario De San Antonio Church in Forbes Park, a wealthy enclave in suburb Makati City. Ms. Aquino cradled her month-old son, Joshua Phillip Antbony Joseph. as she tried to keep the harsb camera lights away from him. "He's very heal-thy," she told reporters. "But, you know, the lights are going to bother him." An elder sister, Viel, was the only one of Kris four siblings who attended the baptism. Mrs. Aquino bas said she could accept: her new grandson, but she refuses to acknowledge Salvador. Kras Aquino, the youngest child, left the family home in November last year already three months pregnant, creating a scandal for Mrs. Aquino, a devout Catholic who has stressed the "sancti-ty of marriage" and made no secret of her dislike for her daughter's lover. Kris Agnino went back home for the first time shortly after she delivered the baby in June to show him to the other mem-

Pavarotti, father return

bers of her family.

(AP) - Luciano Pavarotti and his father returned Fri-day to the Welsh town where petition, because it

to the scene of inspiration LLANGOLLEN. Wales

a performance 40 years ago set the young tenor on the road to operatic stardom. Eighteen-year-old. Luciano and his father, Fernando, sang together at the 1955 Llangollen International Music Festival as members of the choir from their home town of Modena, Italy, which won the competition. "When people ask what is the most memorable day in my life I always say it was when I won the with all my friends," Pavarotti told a delighted crowd from the stage at Llangollen. His father, now 83, was at his side. The choir's victory and the atmosphere of the festival was the spark that inspired Pavarotti to give up his planned career as a teacher and become a professional tenor. He said singing in the competition interfered with studies for his teaching exams. The exam was a disaster but believe me, I would dn the same again," be grinned. 'Many people came to see and hear us prepare. They said if you are lucky you will come 12th," because those judges wouldn't give away the first prize." "I said to my fathet 'papa, if we sing like that we will win'." "You know the rest' be added. Both Pavarottis will sing again Sunday night with members of the Modena

infamous killer cowboy's remains

LIBERTY. Missouri (AFP)

 Scientists hope that dig-ging up the bones in the grave of cowboy outlaw legend Jes-se James will settle the mysnorthwest of Kansas City.

Kohl pays tribute to Auschwitz dead Earber, Mr. Kobl, accom-

OSWIECIM, Poland (R) --German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, grim-faced and silent, paid tribute Saturday to the dead at the former Nazi Germany's Auschwitz-Birkenau His guide was Polisb Fore-

ign Minister Wladyslaw Battuszewski, once a prisoner of the camp, in which about 1.5 million people were murdered by the occupying German forces during World In the guest book at Birke-

Germans gassed more than one million people trans-ported from all over occupied Europe, Mr. Kohl wrote: "This suffering and death. this pain and tears make us silent. Our shared remember-

ance and grief as well as our

will to be together are our

nau, the death factory where

hape, are our way." Mr. Bartoszewski, who despite his wartime suffering is a leading advocate of reconciliation between Poles and Germans, handed Mr. Kohl a three volume book of death, listing names of those who perished in the camp.

panied by his wife Hannelore, went through Auschwitz's main gate still bearing the infamous, ironic German phrase "arbeit macht frei (work makes you free)." He also laid a wreath at a

wall where thousands of victims were shot. This was Mr. Kobl's second visit to Auschwitz, located in southern Poland near the town of Oswiecim. The other was in November

1989 on his first official trip to At that time Poland has just shed communism and the two countries began to reestablish normal relations af-

ter decades of mistrust and

From Auschwitz Mr. Kohl was driven to the centre of the mediaeval Polish cultural centre of Krakow where, surrounded by enthusiastic crowds, he visited stalls in a splendid old market. He then spent some quiet moments in the city's main church.

As he walked around the city square accompanied by

his Polish counterpart, Jozef Oleksy, and shaking bands with eager onlookers, people in surrounding caffes clapped

in approval.

Mr. Kohl's three-day visit, which ended later Saturday, has been devoted to building common future for Poland and Germany in a united Europe.

In a much more relaxed and confident manner than during the ground-breaking first visit, Mr. Kohl once again assured his Polish hosts that Germany was deter-mined to build with Warsaw ties as firm as those linking it with France.

He also pledged to help Poland meet its aim to become a member of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the European Union (EU) before the end of this century.

But Mr. Kohl also warned Poles that the bulk of work needed to attain these goals bad to be done by continuing market reforms and adaptation to EU standards in all spheres of life.

India orders inquiry into tycoon's death

NEW DELHI (R) — India adhayaya Hospital, relatives it was a joke," Mr. Nambiar Saturday ordered a magistrate's inquiry into the death in a New Delhi hospital of 47-year-old fugitive Tycoon Rajan Pillai, who was facing extradition to Singapore for sentencing on a fraud convic-

The lieutenant-governor of Delhi, P.K. Dave, ordered the investigation to determine the circumstances which led to Pillai's death Friday. officials said.

The probe, to be conducted by the deputy commissioner for Delhi. D.M. Sapolia, is scheduled to be completed in 15 days.

Pillai, the so-called "biscuit king" who once controlled a \$570 million food-processing empire, was bleeding profusely from his nose and mouth and died two hours after he was taken from Dethi's Tihar Jail to the nearby state-run Deen Dayal Up-

Indian doctors were conducting a post-mortem on Pillai's body and were expected to submit their report later Saturday.

"This is a sensitive case. We will conduct a postmortem today and give our Bharat Singh. report. medical superintendent of the hospital where Pillai died. told Reuters, Saturday.

Pillai's personal secretary. Babu Nambiar, told Reuters the former tycoon had developed a fever in jail.

"He suffered from cirrhosis of the liver since 1992. But the authorities scoffed at him when he asked for medical help the previous

day." Mr. Nambiar said.
"When we asked for why didn't he go to Singapore for treatment. They thought

A judge dismissed Pillai's plea for a special medical examination Thursday. saying his condition was not serious and he would be allowed only# the "normal medication" available in

Tihar Jail. Pillai's cousin, Komal Kumar, said in the soutbern Indian city of Trivandrum that the tycoon was denied basic medical and other facili-

ties in prison. "Rajan was provided no facility in prison. He was put in a cell where he had to share the toilet with three others. He was never used to such a living." Kumar said.

Pillai's lawyers, quoted by the Press Trust of India, said they were considering conly available for comment.

Japan finds new evidence against cult

TOKYO (R) — An arrested member of the doomsday sect accused of gassing Tokyo subways helped Japanese police uncover more than 100 containers of ingredients and by-products of the nerve-gas sarin. Japanese media Saturday quoted police sources as

NHK public broadcasting said Tokyo's Metropolitan Pnlice Department unearthed the chemical evidence in a forest in Nikko, a popular tourist area 120 kilometres

north of the capital. The containers were found precisely as indicated in a confession by Tomomasa Nakagawa, 32, a close aid of Aum Shinrikyo (Supreme Truth Sect) leader Shoko Asahara, police officials were quoted as saying by NHK.

Mr. Nakagawa, who accompanied police on the search, and Asahara are among over 30 cult members indicted on charges of murder and attempted murder in the March 20 sarin attack on Tokyo subways that killed 11 people and sickened 5,500.

Mr. Nakagawa had earlier confessed that the cult stashed the chemicals in the forest after the police launched a nationwide raid on Aum facilities on March 22.

Aum denies involvement in the case and Asahara has refused to discuss the charges with police investigators.

LOS ANGELES (AP) -

they deliberate murder

Also Friday, Judge Lance

Ito admitted in evidence a

picture of a butcher knife on

has not been linked to any

tried to arm herself with the

knife when she heard ber

daughter, Sydney. Mr. Cochran didn't dis-

close the name of his first

witness, but sonrees close to

the case said it would be

Arnelle Simpson, the defen-

dant's older daughter from

Mr. Cocbran said he hoped

to avoid calling Sydney in

his first marriage.

killer approaching.

charges, the judge ruled.

China holds U.S. rights activist as a spy

BEIJING (R) - China said Saturday it had formally arrested Chinese-American buman-rights activist Harry Wu for espionage in a move

Mr. Wu, also known by his Chinese name Wu Hongda, was arrested by the Public Security Department in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, Xinbna News Agency said. It did not say where Mr. Wu was being held. "Chinese-American Wu

Hongda was arrested here today by police on charges of entering into China under false names, illegally obtaining China's state secrets and conducting criminal activi-ties," Xinhua said in a dispatch from Wuban.

Elaborating on Mr. Wu's alleged criminal activities. Xinhua said he had "engaged in espionage and bought secret information and stole secret documents.

"He carried these secrets abroad and provided them to foreign organisations and institutions," the agency said.

It did not say what the secret documents were: Mr. Wu is to stand trial in China, Xinbua said.

"The case is prepared by analysts said could worsen the local judicial department deteriorating Sino-U.S. rela- of the city," it said.
tions. Mr. Wu made

documentary for the British Broadcasting Corporation in 1994 alleging that Chinese doctors mined the organs of executed criminals for transplant, Beijing denies the allegation. Since June, 1991, Mr. Wu

allegedly stole into China on

several occasions using an

alias, Peter Wu or Harry Wu. and trespassed in restricted areas, Xinhua said. U.S. legislators have demanded China release Mr. Wu and analysts said his

arrest for alleged espionage could worsen deteriorating Sino-U.S. relations. The U.S. State Department had no immediate com-

ment on Mr. Wu's arrest. Mr. Wu, 58, was detained on June 19 after entering China from Kazakhstan using what the United States says is

his legal name, Peter Wu.

Washington says Mr. Wn, China-born U.S. citizen, has a valid Chinese visa, but Beijing says his papers are

He spent 19 years in Chinese labour camps for dissident activities and after his release wrote extensively about China's secretive prison system and alleged humanrights abuses inside prisons. In 1985, he moved to the

United States and is a 1esearch fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University.

The United States has accused China of violating an internationally recognised consular convention by refusing to let U.S. diplomats contact Mr. Wu. Beijing insists it has strictly abided by the consular accord but says Washington has repeatedly violated it.

In Washington Friday, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said the department had received "encouraging signs" that China might finally grant U.S. diplomats access to Mr. Wu.

Photos of two slashed murder it. Mr. Cochran said the girl's victims and the types of medical help the previous day the authorities told Mr. Pillai tacting India's National Hustatement about what she knives that could have killed man Rights Commission. The them will be in the hands of lawyers were not immediate-O.J. Simpson's jurors when

Human rights probe team in Nigeria LAGOS (R) — A human rights team gathered in Nigeria's capital Saturday for a fact-finding mission amid international concern over the fate of political detainces.

diplomats said. Nigeria's military government has been under attack internationally over the secret trial of more than 23 people, including former military ruler General Olusegun Obasanjo in connection with an alleged plot

to topple it in a coup d'etat. Diplomats said the team was led by former Canadian Foreign Minister Flora Mac-Destald, who arrived in iagos on Thursday, other members of the group were

still awaited. The team was sponsored by the New Delhi-based Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, a nongovernmental organisation. "They are not acting on behalf of the Commonwealth or Commonwealth governments but will report to them," one senior Western diplomat said. The mission will end on July 18th.

"Their programme is still being drawn up but they hope to see a broad spectrum of people in Nigeria," the diplo-

Other members include former Zambian Legal Affairs Minister Roger Chongye, a former chief justice of Zimbabwe and Trinidadian Neville Linton, a former Commonwealth secretariat official who is to serve as

secretary of the team. "The rest of the team is expected in the next couple of days," the diplomat said.

Britain, the former colonial power, is seeking news of the trial and its Overseas Development Minister Lynda Chalker has threatened that Nigeria could be barred from the Commonwealth summit of former British territories io Auckland in November.

State radio, in a commentary Saturday, rained abuse on Ms. Chalker and said Nigeria was no longer a British colony and could not be dictated to.

"It is advisable for Ms. Chalker and any other member of the British cabinet to desist from saving or doing anything that can cause unnecessary irritation in the longstanding relations between Nigeria and Britain." the radio said.

Britain is not alone in pressuring the Nigerian authorities on the coup trial. | person and asked permission

Judge allows prosecution evidence in Simpson case for an interview. Ms. Clark said she would try to arrange beard the night of the mur-ders could be read into the record.
"She said she heard ber

mommy talking to mommy's

best friend and crying, and we feet that is very relevant," Mr. Cochran said. Nicole Brown Simpson's Sydney and brother Justin, kitchen counter, although it who now live with their maternal grandparents, were violence. Prosecutor Marcia asleep inside when Ms. Simp-son and her friend Ronald Clark floated a new theory that perhaps Ms. Simpson Goldman were killed outside

her condominium on June 12.

The Browns' laywer, Gtor-In a hearing setting the stage for the defence to open ia Allred, said she had received no request for an in-terview with Sydney so it was its case Monday, attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr. relucpremature to say if one might tantly divulged some details be granted. of his first witnesses, including Simpson's 9-year-old

The children should be spared and not be forced to become part of this trial. I think they have suffered enough," Ms. Allred said. "I'm appalled that Mr. Simpson nr his defence team would want to drag either or both of the children through

A day after the prosecution rested, Judge Ito quickly disposed of a routine defence motion to dismiss the charges on grounds that prosecutors failed to prove their case. "I believe at this point the prosecution has met the bur-

den as required," the judge Simpson, the former football star who turns 48 Sunday, has pleaded innocent and faces life in prison if

The defence fought to keep way from deliberating jurors the grotesque photographs showing the victims' bodies. Attorney Carl Douglas said jurors were siekened when they saw them in court and would be even more distressed by having so many colout

pictures in a small space. The judge allowed all but one photo, a close up of Goldman's wounds. But he permitted a similar photo to be used with a portion crop-

ped out. Ms. Simpson and Goldman were stabbed to death outside the front entrance, and prosecutors claim the killer parked in the rear and escaped that way.

Prosecutor Christopher Darden, meanwhile, demanded to know more about defence witness plans, and Mr. Cochran reluctantly provided some details, although he insisted he shouldn't be forced to preview his case.

Mr. Cochran confirmed that the drug abuse of Ms. Simpson's friend Faye Res-nick would be raised. The defence claims Ms. Resnick. author of a book about the Simpsons' relationship, may have been the real target of killers trying to collect a drug debt. He said Ms. Resnick's former boyfriend would testify about an "intervention" he and Ms. Simpson conducted at her condominium in get Ms. Resnick off drugs.

Simpson's sister Carmelita Durio and mather, Eunice. also were on the witness list, and sources have said they probably will testify about Simpson's demeanor in the days after the slayings.

Arnelle Simpson, who lived on her father's estate. also was with him during that time. And she testified at his preliminary hearing about being awakened by police who entered Simpson's estate without a warrant hours after the bodies were found.

Choir. Experts to dig up

teries surrounding the death of the frontier legend. A Circuit Court Judge approved the exhumation of James' remains, granting law and forenisie sciences Professor James Starrs from George Washington University permission to examine the skeleton. The investigation is aimed at finding out if the body is indeed James' and if so, how he was shot. According to legend, the infamous robber died April 3, 1882 in St. Joseph, Missouri when a member of his gang, Bob. Ford, reportedly snot him in the head to collect a reward. Mystery has surrounded the question of whether it really was James who was shot and whether Ford was the sole gunman or if his brother shot at the same time. Starrs, who will lead a 15-member team. will have to dig up the remains by August, and rebury them within 90 days. The grave is located in Kearney.

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Greenpeace again urges France to review resumption of nuclear tests

PARIS (Agencies) — The environmental group greenpeace, its protest ship Rainbow Warrior nearing France's South Pacific nuclear test site, on Saturday again urged President Jacques Chirac to reconsider his decision to resume testing.

We are asking you today to hear not only the voice of a handful of citizens aboard a ship of peace, but the immense emotion of millions of people across the the world," Greenpeace said in an open letter to France's new presi-

The jnurney of Rainbow Warring to the Mnruroa Atoli has become a centre-piece for worldwide protests against Mr. Chirac's decision to conduct eight final nuclear tests between September and next

The ship is expected to arrive at Mururoa within the next 24 hours, in time to mark the 10th anniversary of its predecessor's sinking by French secret agents in New

Zealand on july 10, 1985. The vessel's 26-member crew bas told Mr. Chirac that his decision could set off a chain-reaction, with other nuclear powers following suit to modernise their weapons and other countries being encouraged to embark on a nuclear programme.

"That would indeed be a very black day in the history of humanity," the crew said

in its four-paragraph letter. Greenpeace has been told by French anthorities not to enter a 12-mile zone around

PARIS (AFP) - An illegal.

financing scandal that has

embarrassed President Jac-ques Chirac's party reignited

Saturday with the publication

of an interview of a disgrun-

tled party worker who alleged widespread abuses.

The interview, in the left-

leaning daily Liberation, appeared a day after a inves-

tigating judge arrested, then released, Lonise-Yvonne

Casetta, the deputy finance

director of the party, the Rally For the Republic

around Mururoa. On a previous protest mission in 1992, a Greenpeace vessel was boarded and the crew deported.

A French warship which had been shadowing the protestors shied away Friday, ent Admiral Philippe Euverte told a news conference at Mururoa that the snrveillance ship Vendemiaire was now tracking it. He said the navy would

wait until the Rainbow Warrior was well inside the 12mile zone and then divert it without force. The operation, 'Nautile 95", would use up to four ships, depending on Greenpeace's willingness to cooperate, he said.

'We know that the French authorities have more resources than Greenpeace. but on our side we have the strength of international opinion and the commitment and creativity of our team," Greenpeace campaigner Stephanie Mills said in a statement from the Rainbow

Ms. Mills had told Reuters carlier that the erew, apprehensive as the ship approached the atoll, had spent the day training and preparing for their arrival.

Greenpeace declined to spell out what its splan of action was, but Ms. Mills said the ship was capable of staying at sea for another two

In New Zealand a service

Former Chirac campaign worker

alleges widespread illegal financing

(RPR), after a search of her

In the interview, Didier

Delaporte, 33, who worked

for Casetta from January to

April, when Mr. Chirac was

elected president, described

Ms. Casetta as a woman who

negotiated illegal donations

from companies, collected

the cash and then supervised

its placement, often in fore-

ign Shell-company accounts.
RPR officials could not be

reached for comment Satur-

Mr. Delaporte spoke to

Mururoa. On a previous pro-test mission in a 12-mile zone was held Saturday to com-memorate the bombing of the original Rainbow Warrior in Auckland's Marsden Wharf. which killed the photographer Fernando Pereira.

Further commemorative events were due to be held Monday in Auckland and in Paris, where Greenpeace has rented a boat moored on the River Seine in front of the

Foreign Ministry.

A German deputy from the coalition Free Democratie Party (FDP) has advocated a boycott of French state enterprises to protest France's decision to resume nuclear testing, the Bild Am Sonntag newspaper to be published

In an interview with the Sunday tabloid, FDP parliamentarian Olaf Feldmann rejected boycotting private companies, which he said would merely hit individuals, hnt proposed instead a boycott on public companies, which would hit an intended

The boycott of large enterprises like Air France or the Renault group makes perfect sense." Mr. Feldmann said.

While the German government has adopted a moderate ine, a Forsa poll published Friday found 95 per cent of Germans oppose the French

Only 50 per cent of those, however, would be prepared to forgo French products and holidays in France, to protest

Liberation after being inter-

viewed for five bours

Wednesday by the investigat-

ing judge, Eric Halphen, in a

hospital. Mr. Delaporte said he bad

been considering writing a

book about his campaign ex-

periences when 10 days ago,

three men severely beat him

up and told him: "You'd

better keep your mouth

An official said in Srinagar that the team was camping in the hill resort town of Pahalgam, some 100 kilnmetres from here, where the four were seized while on a trekking holiday.

He however said the team had failed to establish contact with the rebel Al-Faran group which claimed respon-

sibility for the kidnappings.
"We are aware that the tourists have been spotted," he sald on condition of anonymity. "But we will not take any step which could endanger their lives.

"We will try to persuade The beating had the opposite effect: He contacted the abductors to set them free," he said. Judge Halphen, then Libera-

Kashmir militants kidnap another

GROZNY, Russia (AFP) — Chechens will be able to de-

cide for themselves whether

they want independence from

Russia during upcoming elec-

tions, negotiators here said

Saturday. Arkady Volsky, one of the

Russian negotiators at talks

in the Chechen capital Groz-

ny, said the rebel Chechen

government's demand for in-

dependence "can not be de-

cided at this table, it should

be decided by the results of

elections. The people should

Mr. Volsky said there

would be no referendum on

sovereignty because the Rus-

sian constitution does not

provide for that, and

Chechenya is still part of the

But pro-independence

candidates could run in the

election for president of the

tiny Caucasus republic, effec-

tively making the vote a poll

on Chechenya's status, Mr.

"That's democracy," he

No date was set for the

· There was no statement on

whether President Dzhokhar

Dudayev, who unilaterally declared Chechenya indepen-

dent in 1991 and led the

seven-month war against

Russian forces since last De-

cember, could participate in

Peace talks aimed at en-

ding the seven-month war in

Chechenya reopened Satur-

day after almost collapsing in

the wake of the massacre of a

Chechen family, allegedly by

Russian soldiers.

Russian Federation.

decide it."

Volsky said.

elections.

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) - Suspected Muslim rebels on Saturday kidnapped a German tourist near the hill resort town of Pahalgam, four days after two Britons and two Americans were abducted from a nearby spot, police said here.

tourist

The German embassy confirmed the abduction saying the tourist was Dirk Haret. who was in Kashmir nn a trekking holiday.

We are still trying to find out what happened. We have just been informed by Indian authorities of Haret's kidnapping," a spokesman for the embassy said.

Police said Mr. Haret and his Kashmiri guide were anducted hy a group of armed men at Jogibal, some 20 kilometres south of Pahalgam. The guide was later released, they said.

No rebel group has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping, which took place even as the woods near Pahalgam were being combed by Indian troops searching for the four tourists abducted by Muslim militants earlier, police said.

The Indian police force Saturday despatched a special team to negotiate the release of the tourists.

> COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri atunga said at the launch of a Lanka President Chandrika Kumaratunga Satniday vowed to fight for peace in this strife-torn island as Tamil

Mrs. Kumaratnnga said her government was ready to battle the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and restore peace in the embattled northern and

had been launched by Rus-

"The peace talks have not broken," said Ahmed

Zakayev, one of the Chechen

independence government's

to jeopardise the process and

the Chechen people because

of one incident. The peace

talks have to go nn, some

kind of compromise has to be

found and the war has to

end," Mr. Zakayev told AFP.

Friday after six people, all

from the same family, were

shot dead at their home in an

eastern suburb of Grozny. A

seventh victim, a 32-year-old

woman, was in critical condi-

The six, including a three-

There was a near riot Fri-

day when several thousand

Chechens beld a demonstra-

tion around the bodies, which

were hrought into central

Grozny. The head Chechen negotiator, Usman Imayev, told the angry crowd that

negntiations would end en-

tirely if those responsible for

the massacre were not found

would break off for at least a

full Chechen and Russian de-

legations returned to the

office of the Organisation for

Security and Cooperation in

Europe, which is mediating

the talks, saying that an in-

tensive search for the culprits

He later said that talks

However on Saturday, the

year-old girl, were huried Saturday, amid continuing anti-Russian demnnstrations

tion in hospital.

in Grozny.

hy evening.

day in protest.

The talks almost fell apart

"We do not have the right

negotiators.

fighting Tigers. Her remarks came as a

The warning issued by the Ellalan Force (EF) was re-

A neighbour, who asked not to be named, said she had seen soldiers wearing masks

get out of a Russian armoured car and go into the house. Nn shnts were heard, indicating that the gunmen used silencers. A crowd of about 1,500

But the Chechens and Rus-

sians are a long way from an

accord nn the reason for the

war - Chechenya's unilater-

al bid for independence from

The massacre, at dawn in

the Prignrdny suhnrh, ahruptly changed the dyna-

mics of the peacetalks, cast-ing the spotlight back on to

Russian human rights abuses

and raising public support for

Six people were killed in the raid — the family's

father, son, infant daughter

and three other relatives. The

father's sister was lying un-

conscious in hospital with a

bullet wound in her head.

said relatives at the funeral.

been ont milking the family

cow, survived unharmed.

Only the mother, who had

separatist leader Dudayev.

the Russian Federation.

people, mostly women in bright headscrafs, walked from central Grozny to the scene of the murders, about 15 kilnmetres away under a baking noon sun, chanting pro-independence slogans.

Chechen independence to be voted on The Chechen negotiators, including military comman-"Yesterday, there was a lot der General Aslan Maskha-

of emotion," Mr Zakayev dov and Mr. Imavev, also drove to the scene in a con-The talks have already achieved a widely observed voy of cars flying the green, ceasefire and an agreement white and red rebel Chechen to establish radin links between the warring sides.

Traffic halted and passersby shouted "Allahu Akhar" (God is Greatest) as the convoy sped through the ruins of Grozny, captured by Russian forces after almost seven weeks nf saturation bom-

bardments in February. People raised their fists out of car windows and whistled their support at the convoy, under the watch of Russian soldiers sitting nn armnured

Mr. Yeltsin pledged Satur-day that the killers of the Chechen family in Grozny would be found and said he was taking personal charge of investigations into the murders, his spokesman announced.

A presidential statement. read out by Sergei Med-vedev, said "the killers will definitely be arrested and put on trial.

"The murder of innocent people is a great tragedy and when the victims include children the tragedy is even greater," the presidential statement said.

Mr. Yeltsin did not rule out the possibility that this was a "terrorist act ... aimed at creating anti-Russian feelings in Grozny." He urged penple of Chechenya "not to be overcome by emotion, difficult as it may be at

Sri Lanka vows to fight rebels for peace

Tiger guerrillas issued fresh bomh, threats against the capital Colombo,

eastern regions.

"If peace eannot be achieved by peaceful means, we will resort to any means to restore peace," Mrs. Kumarcampaign called "White Lotus" to raise \$15 million for the welfare of soldiers

front organisation of the LITE threatened to bomb Colombo if the government failed to investigate the alleged military use of civilians as human shields in the island's multi-ethnic eastern province.

ceived here by international news agencies barely 12 hours after the expiry of a the group for Mrs. Kumaratunga to order an inquiry into the claims.

"If the request of the Ellalan Force was accepted by the government before the deadline, the homb-planted locations will be informed immediately," said the one-page type-written EF letter sent by ordinary mail.

Police said they considered the EF a front of the LTTE and security was being tight-ened here. The EF had earlier accepted responsibility for last month's failed homb

Friday night deadline set hy attack on Colombo International Airport. The EF said that minority

Tamils were being used by security forces to clear mine fields, a charge denied by the military. The group has warned that it had finalised arrangements to detonate massive bombs" in the capital.

The bomb threat came amid speculation that a military advance against the LTTE-held northern Jaffna peninsula was imminent. The Tigers too had said that they were bracing for an attack from the military.





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Incursion unjustified

WHILE. WE might understand Ankara's anxiety and its right to fight off any rebellion that threatens its national unity, we simply cannot accept Turkey's incursions into Iraqi territory at its will and pleasure. Regardlessof the present chaotic situation in the north of Iraq, Turkey is duty-bound to consult with Baghdad, or the government of any country for that matter, before launching military operations in that country's sovereign territory. What we are witnessing today in the Turkish incursion into Iraq — the second in three months - is a total disregard for Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity. No explanation could justify an action that, no doubt, takes advantage and makes mockery of Iraq as an independent sovereign state in the region. Turkey would be better off to remind itself that the present distortion in Iraq is not going to last for ever, and that Frag would, sooner or later, reassume its rightful role as a key player in the Middle East, much more so as a neighbour of Turkey. For all said and done, the Turkish operation in northern Iraq, notwithstanding its reasons and background, is simply adding insult to injury.

That is only one aspect of the imbroglio. The other is the stark reality that Turkey, instead of trying to engage its Kurdish minority in a dialogue to settle the root cause of the rebellion, has continued to opt for military means to address the situation. In this era, regional conflicts and internal dispates are better addressed through civilised dialogue based on respect for the rights of propie to a dignified life.

The danger that lurks behind Turkey's incursions into Iraq at will is that the move will set a precedent. If the world keeps silent today over what is happening in Iraq, then it would be deprived of the moral right when another country, whether in the Middle East or elsewhere, decides to launch similar operations in foreign territory.

The Kurdish problem is an internal Turkish affair. But when an internal affair touches the fundamental principles that govern relations between states and respect for each other, then it ceases to be an internal issue.

APABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'l daily Saturday expressed outrage at statements by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to the daily Davar newspaper in which he was reported to have claimed that the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty provides for the West Bank to be merged with Jordan. The paper said that Jordan has been repeatedly demanding that the Palestinians regain their homeland in Palestine and an end to Israeli occupation of all Arab lands held since 1967 including Arab Jerusalem. His Majesty King Hussein has frequently repeated that only when the Palestinians have regained their sovereignty and lands they would be able to determine their own future freely, added the paper. It said that Jordan has been striving to help the Palestinians regain their rights, including the right to independence with Arab Jerusalem as the Palestinian capital and therefore it is assonishing to hear Mr. Rabin giving such a statement which contradicts the facts on the ground. The paper also criticised the Israeli premier for declaring that Israel would not withdraw to the pre-1967 borders with Syria and Palestine, would not allow Jerusalem to be partitioned, would not allow the Palestinians to establish their own state and would not dismantle Jewish settlements. It said such statements are cause for concern and they could only undermine the whole peace process.

A WRITER in Al Dustour warned against the wideoing gap between the rich and the poor in Jordan, resulting from unemployment and ill planning for development. Taker Al Adwan said a visitor to Jordan would notice two extremes; the wealthy nature of Western Amman regions where some of the villas and palaces must have cost at least a million dinars each and the other parts of the country, especially the raral areas where the majority live around and under the poverty line. The unchecked sky rocketing prices of basic commodities, unemployment and low income of most of the people of Jordan are causing poverty while the absence of major income generating projects that could absorb huge numbers of unemployed Jordanians are causing deep frustration among the public, said the writer. Citing a recent World Bank report about the widening gap between the rich and the poor countries around the world. the writer said that the report pointed to the Arab region where such disparity occurs and warned that unless unemployment and poverty are dealt with in an appropriale manner, corruption will increase and public discontent with serious economic and social consequences will grow.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Privatisation: More than lip service

THE GOVERNMENT is definitely in favour of privatisation. Businessmen in the country are strongly for privatisation. Economists unambiguously support privatisation. The economic adjustment programme highlights privatisation. The five-year social and economic development plan sets privatisation high on its agenda. His Majesty the King's privatisation and the privation of the privation of the privation of the privation of the private and the private of the pri message designating a new prime minister, which effectively embodies the terms of reference for the new government, stresses privatisation. The ministerial programme submitted to Parliament for the vote of confidence includes a clear-cut undertaking to privatise. Yet, 15 years after the birth of the idea of converting the Royal Jordanian airline (RJ) into a private shareholding company, and 10 years after the official adoption of a policy to privatise the Public Transport Corporation and the Telecommunication corporation, nothing happened on ground, except reports and declarations of intentions, followed by more reports and

To continue preaching privatisation and demonstrating its advantages, and proving the desirability of a true market economy are waste of time and no more needed. What we need from now oo is an explanation of our failure to perform and implement a policy confirmed by countless decisions, programmes, reports, plans, studies and recommendations. There must be a strong factor preventing privatisation from taking off despite all this noise about it. We suggest that the main reason for failure is that the Jordanian public opinion is our yet convinced that privatisation is good for the people and accordingly deserves experimentation. People think that privatisation means selling out the public sector to rich businessmen to exploit the people without any regulations or restrictions. They believe that the first step after the privatisation of a corporation is to fire the majority of the employees and

workers. Finally, privatisation has the image of being

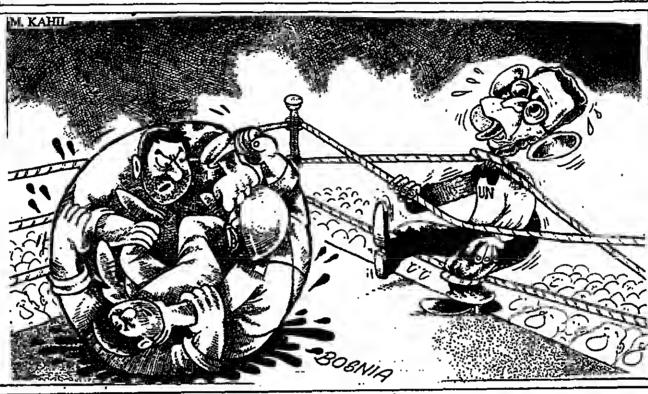
imposed upon us from without, therefore resistance to privatisation is justified as a sort of safeguarding independ-

If we are serious about fastering the role of the private sector and the market economy and making privatisation possible, we should first educate our people and convince the public opinion. Education is not only needed by the man io the street but also by deputies in Parliament, ministers in the government and journalists in the press. The majority of those groups harbour ideas and tendencies favouring the hearmony and domination of the state over favouring the hegemony and domination of the state over economic life, including ownership and management. Perhaps no one is calling for outright socialism anymore, but the culture of socialism is still deep in many minds.

The latest report by the experts of the World Bank, who studied and evaluated the Jordanian private sector, noticed that the state has investments in many enterprises, including commercial establishments such as hotels. The impact of that is over-stretching public resources, crowding out the private sector and causing low economic efficiency.

The report came up with some new recommendations such as issuing a special law to deal with privatisation instead of having to work independently on each law organising a governmental enterprise, and the establishment of a ministry of privatisation, or an influential section in the prime ministry or in the ministry of finance to follup-up and act as an engine to push for privatisation.

Privatisation means more opportunities for the private sector, greater competition; greater efficiency and more attention by the government to its core functions in regulation and enforcement. The problem is that our public opinion is not aware of these facts and should be convinced before the government can go ahead in a serious program-



Lebanon: The succession to President Hrawi

of course, that they were of

any consequence, reflected a lack of enthusiasm to-

wards renewing the presi-

dent's mandate and a feel-

ing of overall resignation

about the entire process.

Indeed, the parliamentary

bloc of former prime minis-tet Salim Al Hoss, as well

as other former prime

ministers and speakers,

voiced their displeasure;

the Maronite Patriarch.

Cardinal Nasrallah Sfeir,

was equally unenthusiastic; and the supporters of

General Aoun didn't care

one way or the other. Some

believed that an extension

of the president's mandate

would plunge the country

into a state of confusion;

others called for a new head

of state in order to bring

about national reconcilia-

tion; still others believed

that extending the mandate

of the president would be

an infringement of the prin-ciple of the transfer of pow-

er and democracy. And some considered the entire

selection process as fraudn-lent and therefore inconse-

This long saga resulted in a stalemate. The tug-of-war between the prime minister and the speaker resulted in an overali face-saving com-promise. Mr. Harini would

voice displeasure by resigning — only to be immediately assured of reap-

pointmeot with new minis-

ters of a more cooperative nature; and Mr. Berri

would win his own little

banle: The Constitution

would not be amended in May, but perhaps at a later

date, leaving all options open for everyone and the

possibility of a constitution-

al amendment as late as

next November.

By Fida Nasrallah

ON NOV. 23, 1995, Lebanon's President Elias Hrawi's term of office will end. Since January this year, political life in Lebanou has revolved around little else but speculation around the identity of Mr. Hrawi's successor. Some floated the idea of either extending the president's mandate by an additional three years (tamdid), or renewing his sixyear term altogether (tajdid). Others, namely the army, pushed for the elec-- of the chief-of-staff,

General, Emile Lahoud. But both President Hrawi remaining in office, either through extension or re-newal, and General Emile Lahoud being elected to the presidency are contrary to the Lebanese Constitution. Indeed, article 49, Paragraph two, as amended in 1990, states "(the president) shall be elected for a term of six years. He may not be reclected until six years bave elapsed since the date of expiration of his last mandate, which rules Mr. Hrawi out. Paragraph three of the same article states that "it is prohibited to elect to the Presideocy... first-category (senior) civil servants... as long as they are in office and until two years have elapsed since the date of resignation from their post or since the date of their retirement." which rules General Lahoud out

So the whole political debate in Lebanon in the past six months has centred around the possibility of amending Article 49 of the Lebanese Constitution and the implications of this. To amend the second paragraph on its own would mean the deselection of General Lahoud; to amend paragraph three on its own would mean that President Hrawi would not be able to run again; and to amend them both would give the two candidates a chance without necessarily jeopardising the chances of any other contender. The constant preoccupa-

tion over the identity of the next president, the virtual suspension of political life in the country, the frustration of the rising expectations of Lebanese society, the growing social unrest and the run on the Lebanese currency all led Prime Minister Rafik Hariri to push parliament for a constitutional amendment after convening an ordinary session on May 22 to extend Mr. Hrawi's mandate. The rationale bebind this decision was that once the uncertainty was over, the country would then regain its equanimity and the prime minister would be able to resume his policies unbindered. Indeed, the manner in which that uncertainty would be laid to rest and the implications of tailor-made constitutional amendments were, for Mr. amendments were, for Mr.
Hariri, inconsequential,
Thus Mr. Hariri openly called for extending President
Hrawi's era of "security,
and of political and financial stability." The proHrawi camp openly joined
the fray, stressing the used
for "comminging" and maisfor "continuity" and praising the president for restoring state authority.

intent on wielding his own tive and executive authorities would remain separate. He decided to undertake parliamentary consultations and sound out other political and spiritual leaders, to determine how "the people" felt about extensions, renewals and constitutional amendments. As for Mr. Hrawi himself, who had initially shied away from the idea of tampering with the length of his man-date, he declared his willinguess to submit to "the will of the representatives of the people" - an important declaration in the light of the fact that it was not the will of "the representative of the people" that was responsible for choosing

him in the first place.

The outcome of Mr. Ber-

Not to be outdone, and powers. Speaker of Parliament Nabih Berri decided that parliament would not be buildozed by the government and that the legisla-

Flawed assumptions It is a fact well-known to the Lebanese and others that the selection of a president for Lebanon is not a Lebanese decision. It is also safe to assume, given the prevailing regional configuration and the realities of the Lebanese situation, that any president that com-

es to power in the foresceable future will toe the same line as President Hrawi. The difference is strictly a matter of personality and "experience," not one of allegiance. Nevertbeless, and despite such very barsh realities, it is still important to maintain a fig-leaf transition in an otherwise imperfect and flawed "democracy." The systematic erosion of the very trappings of a democracy may in the long run result in a erosion of the democratic tradition itself. Those who are indifferent to the renewal of the president's mandate, because a change in personality will not result in a change in policy, are still preoccupied with how the international community perceives Lebanon, and herein lies their major miscalculation. The claim that the "election" of a new president

will project an image of a working democracy instead of reflecting a reality that is totally at odds with that image is valid. But the time has come to do away with concern with image and concentrate on preserving whatever is there lest it disappear altogether. Salvation for Lebanon is not going to come from the international community not from France and certainly not from the United States — but from Lebanon itself. If the feelings of resignation and disillusion amongst the Lebanese are allowed to continue uochecked, and their constant search for a deus ex machina is their only course of action, then they are certain to lose the little that remains, and there really remains very little. Of course, all of the above rests on the assumption that "the representatives of the people" have not only "the will" but also "the power." Indeed, this assumption is flawed. And that is the tragedy of Lebanon,

The writer is deputy director of the Centre for Lebanese Studies in Oxford. The article is re-printed from Middle East International.

NATO-expanders need to observe that geography is back

By Richard Cohen

ISTANBUL - Could it be that geography, not de-mography, is destiny? This ancient city, where Europe stages a stunning finale be-fore plunging into the Bos-porus, both dazzles and instructs. As the Clinton administration will discover in attempting to expand NATO, in foreign affairs— as in real estate—location is what really matters. Europeans, of course,

already know rbat. In Greece, for instance, I was asked by one foreign policy expert about the expansion of NATO and waxed Lippmannesque for a moment or two before the clearly impatient think-tanker cut me off: Didn't I understand? The countries slated for early NATO membership are all in "the German sphere of influence." I confess to not having seen things that way. It is true, of course, that the Czech Republic, Hungary.

Poland and Slovakia were all, to one extent or another, in the Germanspeaking sphere of influence - one, incidentally, that predated the Nazi period and was as much cultural as it was political. Franz Kafka, ther morose Czech, lived in Prague but wrote in German, as did numerous other Central and East Europeans whatever their nominal national-

It is not likely that. Europe will return totally to its old ways of thinking and doing. But at least in this region, more and more people seem to assume that the old days are coming back and with them the old ways of looking at the world. Greek businessmen are hopping planes for Tirana, the Albanian capital, trying to restore traditional trading patterns. The northern Greek city of Salonika is once again being seen as a financial and commercial centre for Bulgaria and

With the end of the cold war, geography is once again reasserting itself. Greece is back in the Balkans - and don't think

But the debate over expanding NATO proceeds as if the old cold war verities still applied and the old rules of geography re-mained snspended. In strategie terms. London was once accorded as much importance as San Francisco, Bonn with New York. Paris with Rome and Davenport, Iowa. What did it matter? Attack one and you bave attacked the other.

As long as godless com-munism was the enemy. that could work. Bot Amer-

geography. From Kansas City, it is not only a long way to Tipperary, it is even farther to Bratislava, the grim capital of Slovakia, How is the Clinton administration, which wants NATO expanded, going to explain to some guy in Kansas the strategic importance of Bratislava? Most Americans probably think Bratislava is

Usually, NATO expansion is debated in connection with Russia: How will it react? My question is different: How will the American people react?
Does the United States really want to get involved in quarrels in which it has no stake? Bosnia is a day at the beach compared with the Caucasus or the traditional problems between

did an absolutely super job at tidying up Central and Eastern Europe, but even they left minorities lingereach and every country, a problem of sorts remains. national interest.

geography are once again taking hold. As before the cold war (and World War II). Americans see themselves as being in the middle of nowhere, a shrinking world notwithstanding. Enropeans, on the other band, once again see themselves as being in the middle of everywhere.

They are again finding tbemselves creatures of their own geography and, in a sense, blowing the dust off old texts to see bow things were bandled in the past. Poorly, would have to be the conclusion, but may be inevitably so.

The case for retaining NATO and expanding it is well worth arguing, although the latter has me

The blessings of geogra-phy traditionally enabled America to avoid the insanc feuds of the Old World. The world has shrunk, sure, but, given the demise of the Soviet Union, what is the new "politico" that compels Americans to give up their "geo" advantage?

If there is an answer to

that question — and there will may be — the Clinton administration has yet to provide it.

icans, too, are creatures of The Washington Post

LETTERS

To the Editor:

owner or operator of an automobile is under duty to exercise utmost due care so as to avoid injuring himself and other innocent people accompanying him or in his vicinity. That degree of care, which must be exercised, is that of the

company is under legal obligation to pay damages on behalf of the insured for hodily injury, sickness or disease, including resulting death, sustained by third persons in addition, the injury to or destruction of property belonging to any third person, including loss of use thereof.

Our country has a bad record for automobile accidents.

A chief reason that explains the constantly rising automobile death rale is the increase in the power and speed potential of present-day automobiles. Other reasons include unskilled driving, undisciplined desires, smoking, importation and reliance on used auto-parts, increased congestion, increased mileage, urbanisation, changing age of the population, extended and uncontrolled working hours and the absence of right to refuse hazardous work.

As ever before, we continue to rely on the three E's for lowering automobile death rates. The three E's are: (1) driver-pedestrian education, (1) highway and vehicle engineering. (3) improvement in laws and better law enforce-

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

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By Sid Moody

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Romania and Hungary. Hitler and Stalin together

ing in most countries. In They are all interesting and sometimes they are painful, but it is hard to connect any of them to anything approximating the American The imperatives of

more, worried than excited. But such a case bas not yet been made to the American people, not by the White House anyway, and certainly not by expansion advocates who brandish Cham-"neoisolationist" at their

Liabilities

THE MOTOR vehicle is man's most deadly machine. The ordinary prudent person under the circumstances.

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George N. Saig, Amman.

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USLA. SAN FRANCISCO - The United Nations is crucial to U.S. foreign policy and in-dispensable to U.S. participation in world affairs, four former chief U.S. delegates to the world organisation say.

By Judy Aita

The United Nations has "plenty of room for improvement," says Ambassador Thomas Pickering, but it is "the least worst organisation around... to deal with peaceful settlement of disputes, economic development, and social and buman rights issues."

"We are engaged in the world, and despite the mounting sense of isolationism one perceives in the United States, our future is increasingly tied with the world... We are going to be mvolved in the world, the United Nations is part of that," says Mr. Pickering, who was U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations from 1989 to 1992 under President Bush. Currently ambassador to Russia, he was also U.S.

Nigeria, Jordan and Israel. He and three other former U.S. envoys to the United Nations participated in a panel on ."Redefining Security: The United Nations and the United States," one of a series of events leading up to the commemoration of the signing of the U.N. Charter on June 26, 1945, in San

Their discussion, which took place in the same theatre where the U.N. Charter was signed by representatives of 50 states five decades ago, centred on the preservation and strengthening of the organisation for the next 50 years, especially in light of the increasing criticism of the United Nations in the United States in recent months as Congress tries to balance the U.S. budget and the 1996 presidential campaign

gets underway.
"1 cannot consider a world without the United Nations. It is inconceivable. If there wasn't one, you would have to invent something," said Ambassador the 1940s and included a tour at the United Nations from 1985 to 1989 under President Reagan. Mr. Walters was also ambassador to Germany and served as deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agen-

"People in the United States perceive the United Nations as having a being of its own," Mr. Walters ex-plained. "Yet, everybody around this table knows the United Nations is what the members make it. We make its life; we make its decisions in the end."
Amhassador Douald

McHeury, U.N. representative from 1978 to 1981 under president Carter and currently University Research professor of diplomacy and international affairs at Georgetown University, said 'the United States has to make some decisions about our leadership" in the world organisation.

He pointed out that in its difficult early days the U.N. "was able to survive and prosper because of Amer-

nal way. The U.N. had financial problems from almost the very beginning, but the United States recognised from the outset that our annual payment was so important that it oot only had to be paid but paid at the beginning of the year or the organisation couldn't

U.N. vital to U.S. interests, former ambassadors say

Now, with the end of the cold war, the United Nations has been asked to take on more responsibilities in peacekeeping, economic development and social issues, a transition that is complicated, costly, and at times not successful. It has generated much discussion in the U.S. Congress, the Clinton administration, the press and American public. Now the United States not only does not pay its dues at the beginning of the year, it has become the organisation's biggest dehtor, owing about \$1,800 million this year for peacekeeping op-

But, said Mr. McHenry. "Stop the World I Want to Get Off' is the name of a play. We can't stop the world and get off anything

of the acceleration of the interaction, interrelationship between the United States and the rest of the world... This time of transition is a time that vision and leadership is most needed."

"Fortunately, I think, the American public is more attuned to this fact than some of our leaders" he said, citing polling data.
"Asked if they are in favour of multilateral actions, the answer comes back 'yes' Does it frighten them if they don't have an American commander of U.S. troops in a U.N. operation? The answer comes back 'no.' In almost every instance... they are far more supportive of the United Nations than some of our

politicians." Amhassador Edward Perkins, U.S. envoy to Australia and a former envoy to South Africa, served at the U.N. from 1992 to 1993. He agreed that "if we didn't have the organisation we would have to invent something like it."

The United Nations "will

nor should it," Mr. Perkins said. "Bnt there always has to be a perceived commonality which stretches beyond the sometimes narrow constraints of national interest, because what is national interest today may be an international interest tomorrow or vise versa.

"We bave to realise that we have to interact and exist and cooperate with a much wider array of countries and peoples. That's not going to decrease, that's going to increase."

The ambassadors agreed that serious fiscal and organisational reforms are needed at the U.N., but Mr. Pickering said he thought a consensus for streamlining the U.N. administration "could be readily huilt."

The end of the cold war and the decline in North-South polarisation in the past five years, he said, offer the United States 'enormous opportunities for leadership.

"It is not a fundamentally had organisation. We helped design it, and in

vided ourselves with certain leadership advantages," he pointed out. "We have a larger share of the budget we're comfortable with, but plays both ways - plus and minus. We have a very, very strong position in (U.N. headquarters at) New York and importantly in the Security Council. We are the host for the most fundamental and significant organs of the United Na-

Mr. Pickering noted that in the past five years the United Nations has been successful in areas crucial to U.S. policy, such as in Kuwait and Haiti. "So it provides us with an opportunity for international leadership which we shouldn't miss," he said. "If we had to design a

new organisation, we might not get one that overall was quite so friendly to our leadership in the future as we have seen evolve in the United Nations.... And we have the opportunity to improve the United Nations in the future and in ways that will not be inimicable to our interests or uncomfortable

Vernon Walters, whose diican leadership in an innot always be in accord with ambassador to El Salvador, novative and almost paterin 1995. It is an indication the self-interest of the U.S. plomatic career began in designing it we have proto our leadership." The bomb: The test of the first atomic weapon 50 years ago

By Sid Moody The Associated Press

WHEN IT was over that July 16, 1945, the man who had led the development of the bomb walked into the

desert to reflect. A turtle miles away from the world's first atomic explosion had been flipped helplessly on its hack by the shock wave, J. Robert Oppenheimer set it right

side up. "It was the least 1 could do," he said.

That test, called Trinity, of a plutonium bomb capped a \$2 billion - unprecedented in those time effort conducted in super-Maj. Gen. Leslie Groves,

overall boss of this so-called Manhattan Project, pre-dicted — correctly — that two atomic bombs would stun Japan into surrender and end World War II. But in Trinity's mam-noth, violent, roiling flames mankind had never

seen before, erupted moral questions still debated. 'Now we're all sons-ofhitches," said Trinity's Director, Kenneth Bainhridge, as the fire from the heart of the atom flashed

across the New Mexico de-The light, hrighter at its core than the sun, was seen

400 kilometres away.
"What was that?" a hlind girl 88.5 kilometres away asked as the heat flushed her face.

The homb's identical twin, nicknamed Fat Man. was to ravage Nagasaki just over three weeks bence. Their uranium cousin, Little Boy, destroyed Hiroshi-

ma Aug. 6. Hundreds of thousands of Japanese were killed outright or died from the

effects. But also millions of lives, Japanese and American, had been spared by ending the war, soon to be climaxed with the invasion of Japan itself.

An equation of madness? or mercy?

Trinity culminated a gigantic scientific and industrial steeplechase to produce tiny amounts of fissionable uranium-235 and plutonium that could be carried in a suitcase. Fuelling the urgency was the fear that the Germans, first to split the atom, would make a bomb first. But Hitler bad lost the war before an American-British weapon was ready. Japan, her wood and paper cities largely in ashes, was nonetheless still

fighting with ferocity.... Theoretically, the suranium bomh was straightforward enough to be dropped without a test. Fat Man was more efficient but more complex: Precisely shaped charges imploding inward a sphere of plutonium not much bigger than a grapefruit beyond critical mass to explode instantly in a frenzy of energy-releasing

neutrons. Theoretically. Trinity, sited in a desert of south-central New Mexico north of Alamogordo, was to be proof, in effect the world's largest lab test.

For mouths, the leading scientists of the free world had been testing, tinkering, thinking in the desolation of the desert, Jornada del Muerto, trail of the dead

The bomh itself rested atop a 30-metre tower. The bomb was intended to kill by hlast rather than radiation, hence the need to interpolate the effects at altitude. Spherical, a little taller than a man, Fat Man looked like a woman under a hair dryer at the beauty parlor with wires and knobs all over it. Some of its explosive lenses were held in place with adhesive tape.

The scientific 'long airs' worked through hairs" nights to correct glitches, Explosives expert George Kistiakowsky picked at castimperfections with dental

· Others argued whether the bomh should be used at

But first Trinity had to

prove Fat Man would work. As the scientists gathered at the site, they opened a betting pool estimating the force of the explosion. With his \$1 ante Edward Teller, who was to become a major innovator of the later hydrogen bomb, picked high-est: 45,000 tonnes (45 kilotons) of TNT. Mr. Oppenheimer picked 300, Canadian John Williams 200 pounds and Harvard physicist Norman Ramsey went low: zero. Latecomer won a Nobel prize, arrived in the desert and settled for the last number: 18 kilo-

Jornada del Muerto had come alive with kilometres of cables, strung from yuccas where poles weren't available, bunkers, dials, ganges, plus 145 kilometres of roads. Twenty teams fanned out in villages and hamlets to measure fallout should hasty evacuation be nceded.

Alvin and Elizabeth Graves moved into cabin 4 at Miller's tourist court in Carrizozo, population 1,400 and 64 kilometres northeast of ground zero, and set up geiger counters and a se-ismograph. Graves suspended all air traffie south from Alhuquerque, New Mexico, and told the governor be might have to declare martial law. He prepared a cover story that a remote ammunition dump including poison gas shells had exploded, requiring mass evacuation.

GIS of the special en-gineering detachment made a gallows joke that Fat Man, generally referred to as "The Gadget" or "The Thing," would knock the Earth off its axis.

Eurico Fermi, the Italian who had pioneered the first controlled nuclear chain reaction in December 1942, gazed over the desert on July 15 at "the world on the eve of its disintegration." The man who had opened a new world with aid of his 15-centimetre slide rale, did not believe this would happen. He planned to shred bits of paper to measure the blast by how far the shock wave hiew them.

Always everywhere, living off coffee and cigarettes, his cadaverous frame shrunk to 53 kilogrammes from the strain, was Oppenheimer, cajoling, encouraging, advising. Between atoms, Oppie, a student of Sanskrit, pondered the ancient Indian poem, the Bhagavad-Gita, or read. (He had named Trinity while reading John . Donne's line: "Batter my heart, three-person'd

God...").
Two days before Trinity,
on July 14, two U.S. army
officers, Maj. Robert Furman, a Groves aide, and Capt. James Nolan, the Los Alamos ohstetrician. escorted hy seven carloads of security guards, signed a receipt for three crates at Los Alamos, the remote facility 225 kilometres to the north where the bombs were devised.

The load was put in a closed black truck, driven to Kirtland air base outside

Albuquerque, put on two DC-3s and flown to San Francisco. Little Boy had begun its journey to Tinian, the huge B-29 base in the Marianas.

Beyond New Mexico. U.S. warships were shelling the Japanese coast with impunity. Fifteen-hundred planes that day added to the thunder. Australian troops lauded in Borneo. The fighting for Okinawa was just over, taking some 200,000 American, Japanese and Okinawan lives. Churchill, Truman and Stalin were sitting down to a final big three conference at Potsdam out-side Berlin.

At Trinity, all this was an afterthought. Thunder-storms had swept over the site after midnight on the 16th, threatening a delay because of adverse winds.

Groves, a single-minded driver of little charm hut vast ego and determination, inclined to go ahead. feared postponement would inevitably lead to leaks. But he agreed to move firing later, from 4 a.m. (nighttime had been chosen both to cause the least notice and for hetter photographic contrast for cameras).

But as rain pelted down, he sent Kistiakowsky, Weatherman Jack Huhbard and some MPs to the tower as a precaution against sahotage. They relieved Don Hornig, a young physicist who had been nervously bahy-sitting Fat Man in a steel shed atop the tower, trying to concentrate on tropical idylls of "desert island decameron" while

lightning flashed outside. Kistiakowsky had to climb halfway up the tower to flash a light so spotlights could focus on it. Hubhard's men released weather balloons every 15 minutes, while Lt. Howard Bush, head of the MPs, fingered his tommy gun in the rain and wondered how he'd ever become involved in this mess.

At 4 a.m. the rain slackened. Bainbridge shook awake young Joseph McKihhen, who had accompanied the party to the tower and dozed off. McKihben was to run the countdown. "Come on, Joe. It's time now."

Aeross Jornada del Muerto, switches began to be closed. At 5:10 a.m., Sam Allison began intoning the count over a clamorous rendition of "the star-spangled banner" as station KCBA in Delano, Califor-nia, began its hroadcast day over the same frequency. At three camps 9.2 km from the tower scientists and VIPs put on welders' glas-

As the count ran down, antomatic timers took over. But Allison continued counting "5... 4... 3... 2... 1..." then be threw his microphone from him and

screamed "zero".

And at 5:29:45 a.m. mountain war time, bumanity entered a new world. In Arizona, 240 kilometres away, a mystified woman tried to explain why she saw 'the sun come up and go down again."

As he watched the swelling firehall never seen before hy man, Oppenheimer thought of the Bhagavad-Gita. "I am death-the shatterer of worlds." Fermi scattered his pap-

ers as the shock wave visibly approached and estimated the explosion at 20 kilotons. (Close but Rabi at 18 kilotons won the pot and

An awed Charles Tho-

mas of the Monsanto Chemical Company shouted to physicist Ernest Lawrence that they had just seen the greatest happening in history. "Buddy," said a soldier behind them, "you just saw the end of the war."

In Carrizozo, the Graves' cabin tremhled. By afternoon their geiger counter clacked off the scale as a 160-hy-48 kilometre hlanket of radioactivity arrived. Groves was about to evacuate the town, hut the readings soon subsided.

Newsrooms were swamped with callers wondering what happened. The Associated Press in Albuquerque, New Mexico, hut out Groves' re-George Harrison, presi-

dent of the New York Life

Insurance Co. and a member of president Truman's interim committee, pondering what to do about the bomh, wired from Washington to Henry Stim-son in Potsdam: "Doctor has just returned and most enthusiastic and confident that the Little Boy is as husky as his big hrother. The light in his eyes discernihle from here to highhold and I could have heard his screams from here (Washington) to my farm.' Highhold was Stimson's Long Island estate 386 kilometres from Washington and Harrison's Virginia farm was 80 kilometres, the distances Fat Man was seen and heard.

At Potsdam, Truman took Stalin aside and told him the United States had just tested a weapon of unusually destructive force. The Soviet dictator, whose British-naturalised spy and Los Alamos physicist, Klaus Fuchs, had witnessed Trinity, said only: "I hope you make good use of it."

Tales of lies and believers

By Sa'ad Hattar SOME TELL white lies and others tell technicolor lies. There are private lies and official lies, and each of the forementioned must have a believer on the receiving

So to believe or not to believe, that is not the question... for the answer remains in the hands of policy makers. Indeed, people in this country are the last to know... and they are the last to come to grips with the hlunders hrought about by policy makers.

After months of uncertainty and ill-planning in the stagnant car market our minister of finance comes up with a solid declaration: The duties and customs on imported vehicles are not going to drop. Those were merely baseless rumours." Thank you your excellen-

cy, as you have just con-firmed, beyond any doubt, that custom rates are due to take a dive. Based on previous statements hy policymakers, people have grown to anticipate the other side of official declarations. Although such statements imply good intentions, and could be warranted by car dealers, whose business had plunged against a hackdrop of continued uncertainty and expecations, they should not mislead people for two reasons: The turth always prevails and the wire of trust between successive governments and the people would eventually be cut off. Only last October, our minister of finance then declared that tariffs were not hound to he reduced, seemingly putting an end to ongoing rumours about a projected drop in tariffs.

A few weeks later, an official decision discredited that statement by announcing a tariff drop.

That minister's state-

ment, which contradicted the stark truth, has caused damage to many people who had taken his word at face value. And instead of sboring up the crumbling car dealing business, this market went idle, thanks to fresh rumours about new reductions in tariffs.

So what do we expect now?

In conformity with the Kingdom's drive to join GATT towards the end of 1996, tariffs on imported goods have to be reduced to fall within GATT criteria.

While looming step remains a prerequisite before such a move, the government sought to keep a tight lid on this issue, leaving people's expectations to shift into imaginations amidst mushrooming

This equation of contradicting public statements is rather more damaging than silence itself. It brings to mind an old joke. A man. sporting a twelve-calibre shotgun and his conspicously "pregnant" daughter, knocks at the door of her lover. With the gun pointed at him the lover says: "But Kathy we agreed to keep our affair secret."

Dutch soldier killed in Bosnia

(Continued from page 1)

Thursday when its watch tower was destroyed by two tank shells, a U.N. spokesman

Dutch peacekeepers re-

mained at another U.N.

ohservation post nearby

Saturday. Some 40,000 people live in the Srehrenica enclave, one of six U.N. safe areas in Bosnia ostensihly protected under a Security Council resolution. Under this resolution peacekeepers are authorised in self-defence to call for airstrikes or use force in reply to bombardment of the

safe area of the town or of

themselves. Meanwhile the Bosnian Serbs, in an apparent breakthrough on the delivery of aid to Sarajevo, agreed to a request from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to deliver some 500 tonnes of food next

Aid deliveries to the Bosnian capital have been limited to a few bundred tonnes in the last two months while the city needs 6,000 tonnes of aid a month, officials said. The Serbs have hlocked deliveries using a number of pretexts.

in recent days, under route.

Igman route despite the dange's and the risk of confrontation with the Serbs. On Friday, French President Jacques Chirac told Serbia President Slobodan Milosevic that the chiefly

along a dangerous mountain road under cover of darkness. The road, which is also used by the Bosnian army for its supplies, is regularly attacked by Serb gunners. "There has been an appa-

rent breakthrough for

pressure to get food into the capital, U.N. peacekeepers

began sneaking food convoys

Sarajevo," UNHCR spokesman Kris Janowski said in anoouncing that the first convoy was planned for next Tuesday and would use a road through Bosnian Serbheld territory which rings the capital.

The move appeared aimed at undermining the growing determination of the peacekeeping force to bring food into the capital using the

Anglo-French rapid reaction force of well armed combatready troops currently deploying in Bosnia would be used to "guarantee" the delivery of aid along the Igman

Iragis flee Turkish incursion

(Continued from page 1)

Seven members of the security forces and 13 rebels died in different clashes in eastern Turkish provinces on Saturday, security officials

Three belicopters flew over the eastern town of Tunceli all day to ferry about 1,000 troops towards suspected re-bel positions in the nearby mountains, witnesses said. Three rebels and four soldiers were killed in fighting in Tunceli province.

Turkey to extend amnesty Turkey is expected to extend for two months an amnesty law for repentant

Kurdish rebels, security officials said. The law, which expired on Friday, allows PKK members

secution if they surrender. Guerrillas who have carried ont attacks get a lighter sentence if they give themselves up.

who have oot taken part in

Anatolian news agency quoted Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's office on Friday as saying a bill outlining an extension of the amnesty had been sent to the cabinet.

The agency said about 200 PKK members had surrendered and taken advantage of the amnesty in recent months.

Egypt rejects mediation with Sudan

(Continued from page 1) the threat and said Mr. Tourabi's views were personal, not official.

Sudanese Interior Minister Al Tayeb Ibrahim Mohammad Khair, said in parliament Tuesday that if Egyptian forces continued to attack Sudanese police in Halaib, Sudan would no longer feel obligated to its accords with Egypt, including the Nile agreement.

The pro-government Egyp-

tian weekly Akhbar Al Youm

reported in its latest issue

Egypt is preparing a major

reconstruction project in the Halaih region.

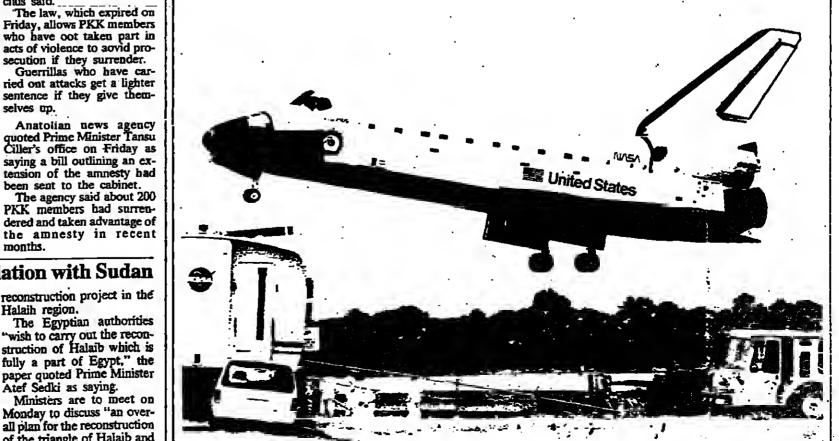
The Egyptian authorities wish to carry out the reconstruction of Halaib which is fully a part of Egypt," the paper quoted Prime Minister Atef Sedki as saying. Ministers are to meet on

Monday to discuss "an over-

all plan for the reconstruction

of the triangle of Halaib and Shalatin" along the Red Sea, Akhbar Al Youm said. The plan envisages the provision of public utilities including water, electricity and

communications.



ATLANTIS LANDS: The U.S. space shuttle Atlantis prepares to touch down on runway at Kennedy space centre on Friday after a 10-day mission during which it docked

with Russia's Mir space station for joint operations (AFP

Jordan, France to resume talks | World Bank on terms for debt relief

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian and French officials will resume negotiations on terms for a 375 million French francs (about JD 50 million) debt relief offered by the French government in the form of investments in the King-dnm, officials said Satur-

day.
The way for the resumpoon of the negotiations which were launched early this year following the signing of an agreement in September — was cleared after His Majesty King Hussein met with French President Jacques Chirac in Paris last month.

The September agree ment, signed in Paris by the then finance minister, Sami Gammob, and his French counterpart, provides for a discounted rate for 375 millinn francs. part of the Jordanian debts to France, for investments in Jordan.

Under the proposed exchange, investors interested in Jordan can pay the discounted rate in foreign currency to the French government and receive the full amouot in incoovertible Jordanian dinars for investment in the Kingdom.

The sticking point is a difference between Amman and Paris over the "redemption" rate of the debt. Amman is seeking a minimum of 50 per cent while Paris is bolding out for 30 per cent, according to sources familiar with the negotiatinus.

In comments carried by the local press on Saturday, Michael Marto, a deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, said Jordan remained highly hopeful that the Paris negotiations would produce "positive results.

According to French Ambassadnr to Jordan Bernard Bajolet, the snag came because it is technocrats wbn are negociating the

"The political will is there no the part of the French government to extend assistance to Jordan, Mr. Bajnlet affirmed during a receot press conference

The ambassador said France felt that Jordan's debts "are a good risk" and thus it did not want to "go too down" in the negotia-

The ambassador also indicated that there were enough investors who were interested in Jordan to buy

head visits S. Arabia the discouoted debts. "That is not a problem at

group ACCOR, which is

jects in Jordan with local

groups.
France bolds about \$600

million of Jordan's debts. The bulk of the debts bave

already been rescheduled after the Kingdom reached an accord with the Paris

Club of creditor govern-ments in June 1994. The

French agreement for the so-ealled "debt-equity"

swap proposal was also made at the same meeting

Ambassador Bajnlet said it was unlikely that the French government, which wrote nil \$5 million of Jor-

dan's debts last year, would

extend further debt can-

cellation to the Kingdom.

Freeeb government was

seeking to help Jordan through developing the

Kingdom's economy.

Instead, be said, the

with the Paris Club.

ag several hotel pro-

all," he said. "We have JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia enough investors who are (AFP) - World Bank presiready to buy the debts once dent James Wolfensohn bas the French treasury and the arrived here for talks with Central Bank of Jordan officials on the bank's role io reach an agreement," he the development of the Arab region, the official SPA news One of the potential investors is the French hotel

agency said Saturday.
Mr. Wolfensobn, an American, arrived in this western city late Friday, SPA

He will discuss Saudi Arabia's role as one of the bank's financers, including bilateral cooperation and funding of the Internacional Development Association (IDA), the branch which provides loans to the poorest countries, the bank said in Washington. The IDA is in danger of losing part of its funding in

coming years, particularly that provided by the United After Saudi Arabia, the

World Bank president is to visit the Gaza Strip and meet with PLO chief Yasser Arafat. He will also visit Palestinian development projects in Gaza, the bank said.

The World Bank has aonounced a 20-millinndullar loan for education and

Markets rally after first U.S. rate cut in three years

WASHINGTON (AP) -The first U.S. interest rate cut in nearly three years sparked a rally in stock and bond markets, which saw the move as a potential boost for a slowing national economy.

After the Federal Reserve - the U.S. central bank announced the cut Thursday. the Dow Jones industrial average jumped 48.77 to elose at a record 4,664. Strong demand for bonds pushed the yield on treasury's 30-year bond down to 6.49 per cent, compared to a pre-vious close of 6.60 per cent.

"As a result of the monetary tightening initiated in early 1994, inflationary pressures bave receded enough to accommodate a modest adjustment in moactary coadi-tions," Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan said in a state-

Bank of America, the second-largest U.S. bank, cut its prime lending rate by a quarter point and others were expected to follow suit. The prime, the benchmark for sumer loans, fell from 9 per cent down to 8.75 per cent.

millions of business and con-Earlier Thursday, the U.S.

Commerce Department re-

secutive declines in the index of leading indicators signals an impending recession. The Fed announced it was euttiog its target for the federal funds rate from 6 per cent down to 5.75 per cent. This is the rate banks charge

ported that its chief forecast-

ing gauge of economic activ-

ity fell for a fourth straight

month in May. Often, but not

always, three or more con-

each other for overnight From Feb. 4, 1994, to this Feb. 1, the Fed doobled the funds rate from 3 per cent to

6 per cent in an effort to achieve a "soft landing" in which economic growth slows enough to contain price s without a reces-Some critics have charged that the Fed overtightened and greatly increased chances

of a downturn in the world's's biggest economy this year or Most private economists generally praised the reduc-tion in the funds rate, the first cut since Sept. 4, 1992. Many predicted more rate cuts

would follow if the U.S. economy remains soft.
"The Fed did the right thing," said Robert Dederick, economic consultant at Northern Trust Co. in Chicago. "This doesn't guarantee that there woo't be a recession, but it certainly improves the odds that we can avoid

"Anytime the Fed has begun an easing process, it never eased by less than 0.75 percentage point and usually by more than that," said Bruce Steinberg, an econnmist at Merrill Lynch in New

Some economists saw the tiny size of the move, only 0.25 percentage point, as a compromise between Fed officials who were urging a delay until more information is known and those whn wanted an even bolder strike against recession threats.

The National Association of Manufacturers, which has been pushing for rate cuts, called the move "a small step m the right direction.... Our only regret is that the rate cut wasn't larger.'

The Clinton administration was cautious io its reaction, sensitive to charges that a president anxinus to be reelected might be pressuring the central bank behind the

The secood alert came la-

ter in January when the ao-

ditors Coopers and Lybrand

sceoes to boost the economy. President Clinton must decide by next March whether to reappoint Greenspan for a Busin

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third four-year term. The Federal Reserve is iodependent and the administration does not comment on specific mooetary actions taken by the Federal Re-Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Joseph Stiglitz, chairman of the presideot's Council of Economic Advisers, said in a joint state-

The two officials said they believed "many of the factors behind the recent weakness are likely to operate with less force in the future" and the economy's prospects re-mained favourable.

The index of leading indicators fell by 0.2 per cent in May, the fourth straight de-

But other recent reports on retail sales and housing have pointed to a possible rebound m activity.
"It is still a mixed environ-

ment out there and the Fed is buying some insurance," said Robert Brusca, economist at Nikko Securities in New

Opportunities for Italian Entrepreneurs in Jordan Projects and Regional Infrastructure

The Government Agency Istituto nazionale per il Commercio Estero (ICE), Rome, the overseas arm of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Trade, has recently signed a contract with Abu-Ghazaleh Consulting (AGCO) to conduct a survey with the aim of identifying development projects in Jordan and regional projects and infrastructures involving Jordan.

The Contract was signed by Dr. Cesar Fritelli, Director, of ICE Beirut Office, on behalf of ICE, Rome, and Ms. Malak ElNasser, AGCO Consulting Manager. The purpose of the survey is to highlight areas of interest where Italian entrepreneurs can contribute to such projects through their skills, advanced technology, and experience.

The results of the survey will be discussed during a three-day seminar/forum to be organized by ICE, early December 1995 in Amman.

The seminar will be attended by Jordanian and Italian parties.

In addition to the survey, Mr. Samir Salameh, ICE Envoy to Amman, in cooperation with the Embassy of Italy is currently collecting valid cooperation proposals from Jordanian concerns interested in industrial joint-ventures and/or technology transfer agreements with Italian companies.

ICE will relay such proposals to Italian parties for necessary "matchmaking" and will organize an Italian trade/industrial mission to Jordan late November 1995.

Barings was warned twice about disaster — Independent

LONDON (AFP) - Barings managers apparently failed to heed two elear warnings which could have prevented the bank's collapse in late February with losses of nearly £900 millinn (\$1,350 million), the Independent said Saturday.

And Bank of England and Singapore investigators into the Barings collapse are raising questions about how far some executives may have tried to discreetly to respond to the warnings witbout alerting cormal managerial chan-nels, it added.

Both warnings of grave irregularities in Barings' derivatives operations in Singawere given in Jaouary. according to the Indepen-

The Singapore exchange, Simex, contacted Barings' futures operation on Jan. 5 to seek clarification about a \$100 million discrepancy in margin payments on a speci-fie customer account: 88888, the paper said.

This was the account, based on a fictitious custumer, allegedly used by Mr. Leeson to conduct the mas-sive speculation that led to losses of oearly £900 million (\$1,350 million) and was blamed for the bank's collapse in late February.

unenvered a \$75 millinn shortfall in Barings' futures operations in Singapore which could not be accounted for io trading losses, according to the Independent. Coopers' concerns were transmitted to Geoffrey

Broadhurst, Barings' group finance director, and to two other members of Barings' top management, Peter Norris and James Bax, the paper

It said that on Feb. 6 Mr. Norris told Ron Baker, bead nf Barings' derivatives trading, that the problem was only an "operational error." an explanation subsequently repeated twice.

The Independent reported on Thursday that senior Barings executives knew of Mr. Leeson's secret derivatives trading account more than six weeks before the merchant bank collapsed.

The Singapore investigators probing the Barings failure were reported in May to be nearing the end of their enquiry after five weeks collecting evidence in Tokyo and Loodoo.

Morocco to reduce budget spending

RABAT (R) .- Morocco plans to cut its budget spendiog and rationalise public nistration this year to help cope with a severe drought, a government spokesman has said.

"The country is facing a difficult ecocomic (situation)... due to the 1995 drought," Commonication Minister and government spokesmao Driss Alaoui M'daghri told a news confer-

"Morocco will reduce state budget spending (for 1995) to be in conformity with the country's potentials and to adapt to the difficult ecocomic conjuncture." He gave no figures but said

a detailed statement would be issued later.

Last year the 333-seat par-bament adopted a 114.4 bil-lioo dirhams (\$13.8 billion) state budget.

In May King Hassan de-scribed the drought which has hit the country this year as a "oational disaster." He said the cereal barvest would not exceed 1.6 million tonnes compared with the record crop of 9.4 million tonnes in

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JULY 9, 1995 By Thomas S. Plerson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is a good day to study every angle of any financial situation before you reach a definite decision. Read newspapers thoroughly.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Think carefully about your personal aims today and don't rush pell-mell into anything as yet or you will not be successful.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Plan a new course of action through which to gain your best goals and more quickly. Have a talk with your loved one.

PROUNT CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get together with practical-minded individuals today and listen to their ideas. You can learn a great deal.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is a day to think how you can gain more prestige and enhance your good name in public. Make good use of your charm.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Delve deeper into philosophical studies today and gain more from them and become more

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Plan how best to deal with others in business today. Have a discussion with your loved one about later this evening.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Study carefully any ideas given you by partners since these can be very important in today's relationship.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get those duties handled for which you have little time during the busy work week. Aid those who need you. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) One who has influence

over your affairs may invite you nut for recreation today, so accept the invitation. AQUARTUS: (January 21 to February 19) Give more thought to

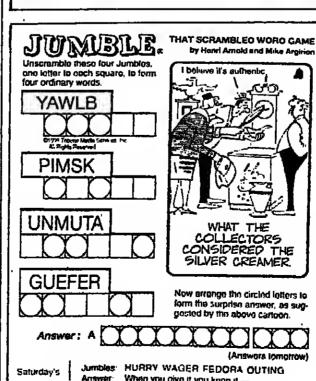
home affairs today and have more concord there with loved ones later tonight. Improve your wardrobe. PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Study the highest precepts which can be helpful to you later today. If visiting a good friend, bring a little gift.

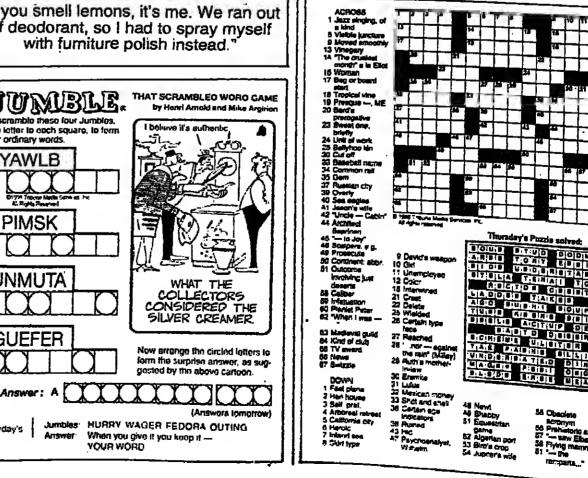
THE Daily Crossword by Eugene Puffenberger

Birthstone of July: Ruby - Tiger's Eye

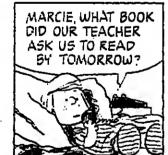


"If you smell lemons, it's me. We ran out of deodorant, so I had to spray myself





Peanuts









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Truckers call for controlling land transport

The Jordanian Truck Owners Association called on the government to ban trucks n owned by the Iraqi government from operating within the Kingdom and to only allow them to transport goods from the Jordanian ≃ port of Aqaba after obtaining special permits issued by the Unified Company for Organising Land Transport. The association complained that there were some transport offices hiring Iraqi truckers to transport goods between Jordanian cities and to external destinations for less fees than those set by the Ministry of Transport. The association called for protecting the interests of Jordanian truckers and controlling the land transport sector in the Kingdom. Meanwhile, Chairman of the association's board of directors Mohammad Abu Haswa said his association was currently holding contacts with officials at the Ministry of Transport to bring into being "land eports?-which will help or e ganise the process of loading and unloading goods cooling into Jordan. He said these "land ports" would put an end to competition faced by Jordanian truckers from Arab and foreign counterparts who, he said, violate the ministry's regulations (Al Dustour).

** The rapporteur of the private sector executive committee taking part in preparations for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit which will be held in Amman in October, Shabib Ammari, said his committee has set up 10 sectoral committees to prepare reports on various issues. He said these issues include:

- the prospect of developing economic sectors and preserving their relative competitiveness in the re-

-- offering proposals on policies and strategies that might help achieve such a

-- identifying constraints that might stand in the way of achieving these goals and offering solutions to them, preparing a report which will include a list of projects proposed by the sectoral committees in order to offer them to investors who will artend the MENA summit.

Dr. Ammari said the private sector executive committee will study reports presented by its sub-committees in cooperation with Jordanian consultants and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). These reports will later be gathered in two documents, to be issued hy the executive committee, and which will be presented to the minister of trade and industry, who heads the national panel entrusted with preparing for the summit. Dr. Ammari said these reports and documents are not working papers that will be presented at the summit, but rather they are intended to document the views of the Jordanian private sector on the development process (Al Aswaq).

Asia faces specter of hunger due to urbanisation

LOS BANOS, Philippines (AP) — Asia is facing the specter of massive hunger the institute, which 27 years ago developed the "miracle rice" which revolutionised early in the next century unless governments can solve the problems of diminishing farm land caused by increasing population and a boom-

ing economy, experts say, And natural calamities like drought and storms, over which governments have no control, further compound the situation, warned the International Rice Research Institute here.

An important political ohiective in most ricedependent countries is selfsufficiency in rice production in order to maintain stable prices. But rice harvests can fluctuate widely, especially in less favourable environments," the institute said in a paper. "Variable natural conditions cause year-to-year shoratges and surpluses." Countries with serious rice

shortages also cannot depend on the thin international market for long-term help, added rice production on a continent where millions depend on the plant as their staple.

"Most countries cannot depend on imports to meet the food needs of their people," the institute said. "The world market is thin and volatile." International trade accounts only to 4 per cent of world rice production.

As an example, it said that if China, the world's biggest rice producer and consumer. decides to meet just 10 per cent of its domestic consumption by 10 per cent, the world market price for the staple would increase by 80 per cent. Such a situation would dramatically push the price of rice and very few countries have adequate foreign exchange to a major buy, the institute added.

This early, the problem is already being belt in many countries in the region. Recently, an acute food

shortage forced North Korea to swallow its pride and ask neighbour and bitter cold war rival South Korea for 150,000 tonnes of rice. Japan also agreed to give Pyongyang 150,000 tonnes of rice and sell another 150,000 tonnes at concessional rates.

Vietnam, concerned about depleting its domestic rice supplies, bas curbed official grain exports in an effort to offset rampant smuggling to

A severe drought forced the Philippines to make frantic calls to Thailand, Vietnam, China and India for some 220,000 tonnes that it will need.

It said even countries currently enjoying surpluses would have to find a way to control rising population and urhanisation. Scientists predict that by the year 2025 the world rice food need would reach 758 million tonnes — 70 per cent more than what is eaten today.

Prahhu Pingali, an economist of the institute, said the effects of the ratification of the general tariffs and trade in January this year also will be felt by the rice indus-

try by early next century.

Mr. Pingalli said Burma
and Cambodia, if their situations improve, could provide half of the rice Asia needs by 2025. But the rest will have to be found in South America and Africa.

While the institute cannot solve these problems, they are offering a quick-fix that may temporarily stem their effects.

Researchers at the institute say they are on the threshold production "super rice" whose prototype is already outperforming the most prolifie rice varieties available in the market.

Such prototype are already being field tested at the institute and the new plant is expected to be available to farmers by the end of the

U.S. backs 'major role' for APEC mediation

SAPPORO, Japan (AFP) -The chairman of an advisory group to the Asia-Pacific Economie Cooperation (APEC) forum said Friday that the United States was ready to promote a new multilateral approach to trade disputes.

Fred Bergsten, a former assistant treasury secretary in the Carter administration who now chairs the APEC eminent persons group (EPG), said be saw a "major for the forum in mediating in trade disputes which could reduce the pressure on Washington to rely on unilateral threats.

"The United States, based on its history of trade policy, will in fact strongly support the effort to have APEC cover additional issnes, to bave APEC develop a disputesettlement process that will further expand the prospects for a multilateral response to

these issues," he said.

Washington is "very supportive and indeed welcomes the possibility of having addi-tional APEC rules, Mr. Bergsten added. That would reduce substantially the risk of continued resort to these unilateral measures."

Speaking at a news conference after presenting a report to a meeting of senior APEC officials in Sapporo, he noted "an increasing number of very substantial trade disputes in the region.

"The most recent was, of course, between the United States and Japan on automobile trade. We know that more disputes are coming be-

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tween the United States and Japan. But there are a lot of disputes among other coun-

"And we in EPG are very concerned about the adverse effect of those disputes on the other countries in the re-

gion," he said. Mr. Bergsten also noted that the dispute-settlement procedures of the Genevabased World Trade Organisa-

tion (WTO) were limited. "There are lots issues that are not covered by WTO," he said. "The WTO is highly legalistic. We think in this part of the world, it would be highly desirable to have a less formal, less confrontational kind of mechanism. That would be like mediation

rather than arbitration." Mr. Bergsten said it was "critically important" for APEC to move forward in implementing the declaration of APEC leaders in Indonesia last year calling for free and open trade and investment in the region by 2020.

Ippei Yamazawa, an economics professor at Hitotsp bashi University who is the Japanese member of the EPG, said earlier that the recent dispute over auto trade between Tokyo and Washington heightened the need an APEC role.

"Bilateral problems are no longer something only two told AFP. "I have heard a lot of calls from various countries for the creation of a dispute-mediation service. Mediation must be one of the major tasks to be carried out

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by APEC from now on. "No one in the region can ignore the series of problems between Japan and the United States," be said.

While Japan and the United States managed to avert sanctions on Japanese cars with a last-minute compromise last week, other bilateral disputes remain in such sectors as aviation and photographie film.

As a first step, APEC needs to form a mechanism to involve third parties in bilateral disputes within the region. "It's very important to let all the members understand the need for a third-country mecbanism," Mr. Yamazawa said:

Mr. Yamazawa also indicated that APEC would eventually have to formulate common rules for such a

The idea of a "voluntary

consultative dispute mediation service" was included in last year's declaration by APEC leaders. Such a service is expected to "supplement"

The EPG, set up after the fourth meeting of APEC ministers in Thailand in 1992, played a major role in framing last year's declaration by APEC leaders and is expected to deliver another report in late August.

The group has so far met twice in Japan and Canada this year and will meet again in China next month and Brunei in September.

APEC groups Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China. Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua, New Guinea, the Philippices, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States.

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Dentsche Mark	4.37	4,37	4.57	4.50	
Swiet Franc	2.75	2.81	2.93	3.12	
French Franc	6.70	6,48	6,31	6.28	
Japanese Yen	1.06	0.93	0.81	0.81	
European Currency Unit	5.96	5.76	6.13	6.25	

Jordan Times

	Date: 6/7/1995		
Систепсу	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.6920	0.6940	
Sterling Pound .	1.1025	7.1080	
Denische Mark	0.5007	0.5032	
Swits Franc	0.6030	0.6060	
French Franc	0.1431	0.1438	
Japanese Yen*	0.1138	0.\$179	
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Italian Lira*	0.0427	0.0429	
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Omazi Riyal	1.7880	1,7970	
UAE Dirham	0.1878	0.1890	
Greek Drackma*	0.2765	0.3275	
Cypriot Pound	1,5085	1.5965	

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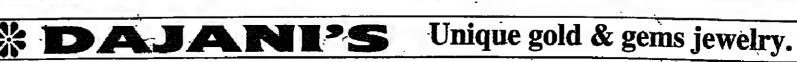




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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Al Jala' conclude visit with 62-59 win

day ended their week-long visit to the Kingfriendly matches organised by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

result mostly in favour of the Jordanian team and the winner only being decided in the final

With Al Jala's victory, both teams split two Jihan Abduloour so wins each with Jordan winning 54-37 to the Jala' still led 55-54. second and 45-37 in the third, while Al Jala' had woo the first match 69-51.

Despite their defeat, the Jordanian team played their best match and displayed that they were improving from one match to another. The team now has less than two weeks to prepare for the Asian Championship which will be held in Shizuoka, Japan July

Jordan's Jumana Salti again topped the scorers of both teams with 19 points (she had 28 points in the first match, 19 in the second and 17 in the third). The scoring percentage of her teammates improved as well as Tala Al Mauje had 11. Jihan Abdulnour and Hala

On the other hand Syria's Karla Maghamez was the one to lead her team to victory with 17 points. Al Yarmouk's powerful centre Elo Mouradian had 10 and Joel Abboushi 9.

While scoring was close at first, the scoreboard showed Jordan leading 13-6 in the eighth minute. However Reem Shakkour scored for Al Jala' to reduce the gap at 13-12.

Jordan's Andeira Qassessieh scored two points and Tala Al Mauje and Hala Muheisen scored consecutive three-pointers to again widen Jordan's lead 21-12 in the 13th minute.

In the last six minutes Jordan scored by Jnmana Salti and Hala Muheisen to take a 29-18 lead, hut Syria's Miriam Abdulnour and Karla Maghamez netted io six points finishing the first half with a 31-25 lead for Jordan. The increasing understanding and improve-

ment among Jordan's players was evident as players tried to apply most of their strategies knowing very well that their four matches against Al Jala' were the only ones to test their preparedness before playing in Asia. The Jordanian team was due to have played another four matches against a Ukrainian team. However, citing a cash strapped hudget, the JBF cancelled these matches

Puig's season ends in crash

Napoli need \$25 million

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

LE MANS (AFP) — Alberto Puig's season its past, will be seriously weakened by the came to an eod here on Saturday after a reported \$6.0 million sale of defender Fabio

spectacular crash during practice for Sunday's Cannavaro to Parma and rumours of a \$3.0

Motorcyle Grand Prix. The 28-year-old Spa-million sale of midfielder Benito Carbone to

niard had just teached the end of the long Inter. "Rather than worry about losing a

straight in front of the main stands when came couple of players, you should be worrying off his Honda at 260 kilometers an hour about saving Napoli," said Ferlaino, who was (163mph). He was immediately rushed to the

track hospital where doctors reported he had Maradona helped them win the Italian broken his left leg and would have to be League title for the first time. Napoli went on operated oo. Doctors added that he would to win the Serie A league title again in 1990 as

almost certainly be out for the rest of the well as the UEFA Cup in 1989. But the elub

season. Puig, who fifth in the world cham- fell on hard times after Maradona left and has

pionship race last year was lying third this recently suffered the indignity of moves to put seasoo. On Friday Italy's Loris Capirossi fell it into liquidation.

NAPLES (R) — Corrado Ferlaino, the major to 10 feet. Clark County officials gave their shareholder in Napoli, warned on Friday that approval despite objections from 75 residents

the southern Italian club made famous by who live near the oear the former Argentline are Diego Maradona needed \$25 heavyweight champion's palatial home on the

million within two weeks to stay alive. Build-city's southeast side. Tysoo had asked for the ing magnate Ferlaino, former president of the wall variance to deter gawkers who have

eluh, told fans outside the cluh's headquarters made his mansion a part of the city's sight-they should be worried about more important seeing tour route.

GOREN BRIDGE

THERE'S A TIME FOR EVERYTHING

In a perfect world every bid and play would be made in tempo. But we are humans, not computers, and occasionally il behooves us to take

East laited to do so and pard the price.
West's hand was rather regard for an overcall and the quality of the spade suit was woefully inadequate for a preemptive jump. Still, it is a sax-carder and, if West did not introduce it immediately, the suit might never get shown. Had South opted for three clubs on the second

round, a cast-iron three no trump might have been reached, but four hearts is certainly the normal

contract.

West led the ace of diamonds and continued the suit in response to East's signal with the nine. In with

of his Honda and broke a bone in his left shoulder and was forced to pull out of Tyson's home to get 1.8m wall

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

buildened with four fouls. Jordan kept the lead at 43-35 at the beginning of the second half as coach Fadi Sahbah gave most bench

players a chance to play. dom hy defeating Jordan's women's national However, the Syrian team seemed deter-basketball team 62-59 in the last of four mined to win their final match in Amman as the team's top scorer Karla Maghamez assisted her teammates while Karin Abdul-The final match at Al Orthodoxi Court was nour scored two three-pointers to tie the game the most interesting and competitive, with the 45-45 io the 10th minute of the second half.

Elo Mouradian excelled in offensive rebounding and scoring as she netted six conminute of the match attended by His Royal secutive points to give her team the lead Highness Prince Firas Ben Ra'd and Princess Dina.

Straightful Hind Al Ghouri, Jumana Salti and With Al Jala's victory, both teams split two

With Al Jala's victory, both teams split two

Jihan Abduloour scored for Jordan hut Al

> Karla Maghamez scored the next seven points for Al Jala' who were leading 60-56 with a minute remaining when Tala Al Mauje scored a three-pointer reducing the gap 60-59. However, Maghamez scored two points as Jordan's Abdulnour, Al Mauje and team-

> mates repeatedly tried to score a three-pointer to tie the game but were unsuccessful. Before leaving Amman for Aleppo late Friday evening, Al Jala's coach Nidal Farra thanked the JBF for their invitation and said his team had enjoyed their matches and stay in Jordan.

We undoubtedly benefited from our matches here, as we will play our league playoffs in 10 days. We hope to see the Jordanian team in Aleppo soon," he added. Prior to their two loses against the national team the Syrian champions had a 3-0 record over Jordanian teams. They beat Jordan's 1994 champions Al Jazireh twice io Aleppo early last year and again in July '94 when they finished second behind Lebanon's Homent-ment in Al Jazireh's five-team regional cham-

Al Jala' currently lead the standings in the Syrian League and will play a three-round playoff against titleholders Al Horrieh and Al Ourouba clubs starting July 19.

Five of Al Jala's players are on the Syrian national team including Al Yarmouk Cluh's powerful centre Elo Mouradian. Other national team players inclode Karin and Miriam Abdulnour, Karla Maghamez, Dina Abdul Samad and Joel Abboushi. Other players are Reem Shakkour, Nonr Tarabishi, Tania Ribat, Aleen Khokaz, Regina Maqdesi and Wa'ed Karroum. The Kingdom's team includes Rana Hus-

seini, Tala Al Mauje, Jumana Salti, Hala Muheisen, Shuhair Makusi, Andeira Qasseudget, the JBF cancelled these matches sieh, Tetiana Qardan, Hind Ghouri, Sirsa rlier last week.

Naghaway, Dima Shadeed, Zein Sha'sha, Jordan's Hind Al Ghouri rebounded for her Rania Al Dajani and Jihan Abdulnour.

things than the sale of players. Napoli fans are

concerned that the team, already a shadow of

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Mike Tyson has received permission to raise a block wall in

front of his \$3.7 million mansion from 6 feet

heavyweight champion's palatial home on the

Graf wins 6th Wimbledon title

WIMBLEDON (Agencies)
— Steffi Graf ontlasted Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in a classic third-set duel Saturday to win her sixth Wimbledon

The top-seeded German broke the No. 2 Spaniard in the 20-minute 11th game of the final set and then served out the match to win 4-6, 6-1, 7-5, in 2 hours, 2 minutes.

The victory gave Graf her 17th Grand Slam singles crown and her 92nd career title. The win also extended her record this year to 32-0.

The match was virtually decided when Graf won the marathon 11th game of the third set. The game consisted of 32 points and included eight game points for San-ehez Vicario, six break points for Graf and 13 deuces.

Both players played superb tennis, with Graf putting on the pressore and Sanchez Vicario repeatedly hitting

passing shot winners.
But Graf finally cut off one of those cross-coort forehand passes and volleyed into the open court to set up her sixth hreak point. This time, Graf slugged a forehand deep into the corner and Saochez Vicario hit a hackhand into the net, giving the German a

Graf then served out the match at love. On match point, she hit a backhand volley deep and Sanchez Vicario sailed a backhand long. The two players hugged and kissed at the net leaned on each other as if exhausted. Graf dashed out through the tuncel and up to the guest box to hug her coach Heinz

Gunthardt and her parents.

Wheo Sanchez Vicario re-

ceived her trophy, she had tears in her eyes. Graf also was tearful as she accepted the silver plate. As they stood together. Sanchez Vicario playfully reached over and tugged at Graf's trophy as if to take it. Graf won \$525,000, while

Sanehez Vicario received \$262,000.

Graf's hid for the title got off to a shaky start on a sun-dreoched centre-court when she lost the 30-minute The 26-year-old German

player, was under early pressure with her serve - hittiog two double - faults in her opening service games.

And when she was broken to trail 3-4 Barcelona's determined baseliner, who had never got further than the quarter-finals in eight pre-vious visits, closed in for the

She served out the next game to love completing a 5-3 lead with her second ace of the match.

The Graf forehand was powerful hut wayward and many of the German player's shots were going into the net or out of play.

With soaring temperatures making the famous court a cauldron, Graf, watched by anxious parents Peter and Heidi Graf, held her serve at the start of the second set but she was still clearly at odds with her game. Her returns of serve were

her opponent and she was still struggling to find her By cootrast Saochez-Vicario was growing in confi-dence and her consistency

far less effective than those of



Steffi Graf

and determination were caus-Graf real problems. It was against the run of play that Graf earned a first break point in the fourth - and she quickly cashed it in.

After a long rally she sent a cross-court sliced hackhand skimming over the net by a fraction of an inch and Sanchez-Vicario could not dig it out.

Before losiog the fourth game, Sanchez-Vicario had dropped only five points on her serve. But now her service was suddenly vulnerable.

Graf was now applying the pressure and finding a better length in the rallies. She forced Sanehez-Vicario to make a backhand error for

Graf went immediately 5-1 elear wheo the Spaniard made her first donble-fault. light's Ivan Go ally shought sed his yello

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Monday.

The German served ont for the set with a forehand winner down the line and for the first time her supporters began to breath more easily. By the end of the second set the players had been on

Sampras, Becker play for title

Agassi says he will not watch final

WIMBLEDON (AP) — Brooke Shields closed her eyes or covered her face. She couldn't bear to watch as boyfriend Andre Agassî lost in the Wimhledon semifinal to Boris Becker.

Now it's Agassi's turn to shut his eyes. He can't bear to watch the final.

"I don't think I'm going to be here for the finals," the top seeded American said after his fonr-set loss to Becker. "Your first priority is to try and get your mind away from the thing that burts most, which is not being there.

Agassi tossed away a 6-2, 4-1 lead as three-time titlist Becker picked himself up to win 2-6, 7-6 (7-1), 6-4, 7-6 (7-1) to gain the fioal for the seventh time.

When Agassi led, it looked like he was cruising to the expected all-American final against defending titlist Pete Sampras, who downed fourth-seeded Goran Ivanisevie. Theo it seemed like the accelerator cable snao-

"I felt like I was fighting ophill," Agassi said. "I felt I deserved to be up two sets to

love and then, when he got away, by the time it was all said and done, he picked up his level and I dido't pick op

Winner here in 1992, Agassi had played some of his most impressive grass-court tennis as he charged into the last four. The roll was still going well into the semifinal as he punished Beeker's charges to the net with winners from the baseline and fired returns passed the be-

"It was definitely onesided for the first hour,' Agassi said.

Then Becker sorprised almost everyone on Centre Court by hreaking back for 4-2 in the second set and Agassi's path to the final suddenly seemed far from

"I felt that mentally I had a hard time shaking off the fact that I let a 4-1, two service break lead slip away. My confidence just dropped," the American said. "After the second set I

never quite emotionally rose to the occasion. When it slips away like this, it doesn't feel great,



Andre Agassi

Agassi said. "But you have to take the good with the had." Beeker, who heeame lying to beat top-seeded Andre Agassi 10 years to the Wimbledon's youngest charnpion in 1985 and won the title

again in 1986 and 1989, reached the final for the seventh time Friday by ral-

day since he beat Kevin Curren in the 1985 final. But the circumstances of Friday's victory made it even more special for Becker,

-: With him being on top of his game and being No. 1 in the world, that must be probably the best tennis match I have ever had at Wimbledon," he said.

That's saying a lot from a man who has won 62 matches at Wimhledon over the past decade, more than any other? first man to reach the final seven times since Arthur W. Gore made his eighth appearance in 1912.

Beeker reacted sharply to a questioner who asked whether he was surprised to make the final over the heavily-favoured Agassi, the 1992 Wimbledon champion who had beaten him in their last eight matches.

"Nobody should underestimate me at Wimbledon," Becker said. "Even when I'm down. I still had the hope. I'm still going to fight until the end. He has to beat me. Surprised? No. 1 have been in that situation much more than anybody in the draw."

Martina aims for 19th Wimbledon But when he came under

WIMBLEDON (AP) -Martina Navraolova is one win away from her 19th

The 38-year-old lefthander, retired from singles play after winning nine Wimbledon championships. gained the mixed doubles final Friday in partnership with fellow American Jonathan Stark. Winner of seven women's doubles o'tles, she now aims for her third in the mixed competition.

Navratilova and Starkcame from a set down to beat top seeds Mark Woodforde of Australia and Latvia's Larisa Neiland 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Woodforde is in another doubles final Saturday when he and countryman Todd Woodbridge aim for their third men's title in a row.
The "woodies," who
ousted Mark Knowles of the

Bahamas and Canada's Dan

Nestor, meet unseeded Americans Rick Leach and Scott Melville, who downed 14th seed Marc Goellner of Germany and Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the

Saturday's women's final is between Fernandez and Natasha Zvereva of Belarus. the top seeds, and second-seeded Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

* While Boris Becker and Andre Agassi battled it out for a place in the Wimbledon final Friday, their closest fans just couldn't bear to watch.

For much of the 2 hour 55-minute match, Becker's wife, Barbara Feltus, buried her head in her hands or sat with her eyes closed. Agassi's girlfriend, actress Brooke Shields, shared his joy as he raced into a set and 4-J lead. pressure and the match swung away from her boyfricod, she also hid behind her hands, unable to watch. Shields was sitting next to

Agassi's former coach, Nick Bollettieri, who now is guid-ing Becker. They shared jokes before the match but didn't appear to say much to each other during the four-set

& Mac Joins Rusedski debate: John MeEnroe has joined the chorus of criocism over Greg Rusedski's switch from Canada to Britain. The three-time Wimbledon

champion, commentating for NBC at this year's tournament, said he didn't like the way the 21-year-old Canadian-born lefthander swapped countries two months ago to help Britain's ailing Davis Cup team.

After a series of defeats. Britain will slip to its lowest level ever it fails to beat Monaco later this month and Rusedski has been chosen to booset the team.

'If people really want to see the true picture they need to see exactly what type of negotiations took place."
McEnroe said. "But the bargaining between the two [find distasteful.

"ft's certainly not a crime but I should take it with a grain of salt."

Some British players. struggling to make their way up the rankings, complained that it was wrong for Ruseds-ki, who is in the top 50, to just walk into the No. I spot in his adopted country.

& Boom-boom Nastase: lie Nastase, who had fans in fits

of laughter as a player while also plaguing umpires with his gamesmanship, has not lost his sense of humour.

In a serious criticism of modern-day tennis, the 48-year-old Romanian said the large graphite rackets used by most present-day players should be banned.

"All the skill is going out of the game," said Nastase, playing in the over-45s doubles tournament at Wimble-don. "Players like Rod Laver, John McEnroe and Bjorn Borg could do wonderful things with a wooden racket. Now it's boom, boom, boom.

But what kind of racket is Nastase using?

"A giant graphite racket, of course." he said. "So I can go boom, boom, boom with all the others.

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PLAZA

Bruce Willis ... in Colour Of Night

the king of diamonds. East wasted no time in giving partner a ruff. The operation was successful, but the patient died. Declarer discarded a spade on the third diamond and the defenders scored no more tricks. Had East taken some time before leading to the third trick, the importance of cashing the acc of spades before giving partner a ruff would have become obvious. For the jump to four hearts South could hardly have less than the see king of hearts and clubs, so there were no losers outside of spades and trumps. Since West had overcalled on a suit headed by the queen, it was more than likely that the suit was more than likely that the suit was its cards long. On this reasoning it is imperative that East cash the acc of spades, before trying to give partner a diamond raff. A one-trick set would then have been inevitable.

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

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CONCORD CONCORO "1" Singer: Alaa" Zalzall. Miss Lebanon:

Nicole Brodwill...in Mission Golden Bird SHOWS: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORO "2"

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Riis apologises for grabbing leader's jersey

CHARLERO1, Belgium (Agencies) — Sprinter Erik Zabel won the sixth stage and Bijarne Riis apologised to a teammate for grahbing the overall lead as the Tour de France entered Belgium here

Though Italy's Ivan Gotti was originally thought to have retained his yellow jersey, a hreak in the bunch earned Denmark's Biarne Riis three seconds over his Gewiss teammate and the

The 202-kilometre flat stage from French coastal town Dunkirk to Charleroi in southern Belgium was sup-posed to have provided little

But the dream increased as Riis, in second place over-all one second behind Gotti at Dunkirk, was unaware he had taken the lead when crossing the line.

Officials later confirmed a 1.2 second gap in the banch with Riis in the first section and Gotti in the second. With the clock stopping at the first rider of each part of

the pack, a three second gap was officially given.
Therefore the Dane, one second behind Gotti at the start, was unexpectedly thrust mto the limelight.

Later Riis said: "I didn't know I had taken the yellow jersey. 1 knew there was a break in the pack, but I didn't think it was large enough.

coach about 10 minutes later.

It really wasn't my fault I

took the yellow jersey from

bonus sprints to put him third overall, eight seconds from Riis and six from Gotti. Attacks were mounted throughout the stage, but "I was told in the team

none succeeded. France's Francois Simon and Belgian Herman Frison made a hreak after 100kilometre, hut were caught

Tour de France

Gotti himself said: "I was disappointed to lose the yellow jersey in this way. I didn't realise there was a. break in the hunch. But as a teammate is in yellow, it's less hard to take."

Riis is no slouch in the saddle, however. The 31year-old was fifth in this race two years ago and won a stage last year. He is a consistent rider and his nine years as a professional has given him a wealth of experience.

Meanwhile Zabel had his moment of glory to celebrate his 25th birthday on Friday with the stage win. He pushed former overall leader Laurent Jalabert into second place, with Uzbek Djamolidin Abdujaparov third and Slovakia's Jan Svorada

Earlier, Jalahert had notched up 22 seconds in

28-kilometre from the line. France's Jean-Francois Bernard and Italians Maurizio Fondriest and Rossano Brasi also made their bids. but were caught 6-kilometre from the line.

The tour continues its three day stint in Belgium with a 203-kilometre stretch from Charleroi to Liege, before the crucial 54-kilometre individual time trial.

Rominger insists he is focused on tour

An angry Tony Rominger hit out on Friday against critics who have accused him of keeping a low profile in the Tour de France.

"Everyday, I'm in front and I risk my life to avoid being left behind," said the Swiss rider who is one of the favourites for the world's greatest cycle race.

Gascoigne arrives in Glasgow

GLASGOW (AFP) - England's Paul Gascoigne puts the finishing touches to his £4.5 million (\$7.5 million) move from Lazio to Rangers here on Monday.

The 1990 World Cup star is set to give an afternoon news conference to seal his move to the Scottish champions.

A four-team tournament at the end of July has been organised by Rangers and Gascoigne is expected to feature. He may also make his first appearance in a friendly on Friday, before joining the rest of the team in a tour of Denmark.

But his first competitive match will almost certainly come in the European Cup, just before the start of the League season.

Rangers face a preliminary round tie in the competition after a disappointing performance last season and will know their fate next Wednesday when the draw is made in Switzerland.

It is believed it was the promise of European football at the top level that finally convinced Gascoigne his future lay in Scotland after injury problems curtailed his career at clinh and international level.

He re-emerged in the England squad for the Umbro Cup last season and showed glimpses of the form that had made him such an outstanding talent with Newcastle and

Now he is hoping to rekindle his career at Rangers, knowing that if any problems occur, he can be back home with his family in Newcastle inside a couple of hours.

He will be accompanied by his minders on Monday when Ibrox will be turned into a media circus, the like of

which is unlikely to be rivalled on any ground in Britain. Meanwhile, Rangers ex-

pect a decision on whether Romanian player Florin Raducioiu has agreed to join them from Spanish side Espa-Rangers manager Waiter

Smith said: "I expect a decision on Saturday and 1 am optimistic about it. "It has been an awkward time because the Spanish sea-

son finished in mid-June and the player has been on hohday while his agent was working abroad." Earlier this week, Rangers signed signed 23-year-old de-fender Stephen Wright from

The Dons rejected 900,000 pound hid from the champions and the deal is likely to be settled by a tri-

Special Olympian feared

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (AP) Nepal's Special Olympics soccer team accepted bronze medals despite the loss of a teammate, who was feared drowned.

drowned

During the ceremony late Friday, five team members-bowed their heads as the medals were placed around their necks. Then they held hands and raised their arms in trinmph.

Teammate Ramesh Mali disappeared off the Connecticut coast on Thursday while swimming with his friends. Hours before the medal

ceremony, the team took to the field a final time, determined to go on with a match against the Ivory Coast. They played poorly but were cheered heartily.

Former Gov. Lowell P. Weicker, chairman of the Special Olympic world games, was on the sidelines to give his support. So were members of the Utah soccer team, who had lost to Nepal two days earlier.

"They've got a tough opponent hat they're playing gamely, and the fact that they're playing at all is a testament to their courage," Weicker said.

The game started with a long moment of silence in honour of Mali. His team-. mates bowed their heads and shnt their eyes tightly. Mali's name was still on their roster Friday.

Even with some deft passing by the team in purple and white and cheers from a small hut devoted group of fans, Nepal was unable to score. They lost 6-0 to the Ivory Coast.

After a long meeting Thursday night with Timothy Shriver, the president of the Special Olympics World Games, the team decided to Group D: Angola, Puercontinue to compete. The Nepalese were escorted to the field Friday hy police and about a dozen Olympic organisers; who guarded them heavily and declined requests from reporters for interviews with the team and coach. Sha'han, Samer Nino, Zeid



Kingdom's U-18 basketball team leaves for World Championship

By Aleen Bannayan Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's Under-18 national basketball team Sunday leave for Athens to take part in the Youth world Baskethail Championship which will be held in the Greek capital July 12-22 with 17 teams taking part.

Together with China and Korea, the Kingdom's team will be representing Asia after becoming the first Jordanian team to qualify for a world championship hy elinching the Asian hronze medal earlier this

The participating teams have been divided into four

Group A: China, Venezuela, Lithuania, Croatia Group B: Nigeria, Korea, Argentina, France Group C: Jordan, An-stralia, U.S., Italy

to Rico, Greece, Spain. Jordan's delegation will be headed by Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) vice-chairman Samir Jana-kat and includes players: Zeid Aikhas, Ma'an Odeh, Ashraf Samarah, Mahmoud

Ghosheh, Ziyad Naghoj. Ramzi Ghneim, Fadi Al Saqaa and Seif Al Lada'a.

In the opening round Jordan face Italy on July 12, the U.S. July 13 and Australia July 14. The second round begins July 21. While playing in the most

difficult group with titlebol-ders the U.S. and second placed Italy, the Jordanian team have garnered sufficient match-experience in the past five months. The hacking of sponsors and officials made them probably the country's most well looked after national team.

Royal Jordanian offered to fly the team to Athens and the JBF have postponed all local hasketball competitions until after the Kingdom's national team ends its competitions.

Their hard work has so far paid off. Initially, their third place finish in Asia was achieved hy a series of matches in Amman and Syria as well as a rigid

training schedule. When the team passed the test with flying colours; the JBF put all its effort. time and money to best prepare the team for the World Championship. They

even managed to get the Ministry of Education's exemption of Tawjihi students on the team from the second semester exam and considered their initial marks as final.

Citing a cash-strapped hudget and the need for a thorough training camp, the JBF then took the controversial decision of registering the U-18 team for the recently-concluded Asian men's championship where they finished 17th among 19 participating teams hut undonhtedly gained match experience against better teams.

Jordan will be only the third Arah country ever to take part in the World Championship, Egypt finished last among 12 countries in the first competition in Sao Paulo in 1979 and Syria came in 12th . among 16 in the 1992 championship in Canada.

World Championship

Sao Paulo 1979

-First: U.S. Second: Brazil Third: Argentina

First: U.S. Second: Soviet Union Third: Brazil

Fürst: Yugoslavia. Second: U.S. Third: Italy Canada 1992

First: U.S. Second: Italy Third: Argentina Results of Egypt's team in 1979:

Philippines-Egypt: 126-68 Unigny-Egypt: 126-67 Australia-Egypt: 88-59 Argentina-Egypt: 150-44 Soviet Union-Egypt: 126-

U.S.-Egypt: 128-38 Canada-Egypt: 105-68 Results of Syria's team in

Brazil-Syria: 113-80 Soviet Union-Syria:

Yugoslavia-Syria: Australia-Syria: 76-

Syria-Japan: 93-79. China-Syria: 93-82-Austrelia-Syria:

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the new academic year (August 1995).

c. History to IGCSE and "A" level

System of Royal endowments for students is restructured

AMMAN (Petra) — In implementation of Royal directives, a new committee has been formed and new rules have been set to revise the basis for admitting students residing in remote areas and the badia regions to Jordanian uni-These students, who

used to benefit from Royal endowments aimed at aiding students of the less fortunate areas in being admitted to Jordanian universities, will now benefit from a unified programme.

The new committee guiding this process will be chaired by His Royal High-ness Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad and will include as members the Crown Prince's advisor Mohammad Al Saggaf in addition to representatives of the military education department, the Royal Court, the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, the Unified University Admittance Bureau, the Ministry of Higher Education, the Ministry of Education and the Badia and Border

_ebanese

poet on

landmark

visit to Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) - Leba-

non's veteran pnet. Saeed

Aqil, whose writings were

long banned in Iraq, is in

Baghdad attending an anti-

He has already met Iraq's

Culture and information

Minister Hamed Yousef

Hummafi and is expected to

address Baghdad's literary

ity for Iraqi writers to meet with Aqil," Iraqi poet Hus-sein Al Husseini told Reu-

The official press reported

on Saturday that Mr. Hum-

madi outlined to his

Lehanese guest "Iraq's stead-

fastness in the face of the

thirty-state aggression and

Mr. Agil's visit and his

red-carpet welcome was a

surprise for Iraqi literary cir-

eles, slammed for his

artempts at writing in ver-nacular and his anti-pan-

Arab leanings, Mr. Aqil's writings are hard to find in

any Baghdad bookshop.

A Baghdad poet said Mr.

Agil was invited by Iragi

Christian clerics who orga-

nised an anti-sanctions con-

ference in Baghdad last week

attended by a representative

lt is Mr. Aqil's first visit to Bagndao. It is not known

why the poet decided to

make the difficult trip to Iraq

travelling the more than

1.000-kilometre road from

"We need to listen to him.

discuss his intellectual and

literary views." Mr. Husseini

CAIRO (R) - Egyptian

lawvers argued in court over

female circumcision on Satur-

day when human rights activ-

ists sued the head of the

eminent Islamic institute Al

Azhar for advocating the

ancient but dangerous prac-

An Islamist preacher and a

group of lawyers and doctors

have railied to defend Sheikh

Gad Al Haq Ali Gad Al Haq.

the Azhar official, against the

suit by the Egyptian Orga-nisation for Human Rights (EOHR). Both sides said they were defending Islam.

None of the women on the

list of plaintiffs and defen-

dants was at the court in

An EOHR official told the

court Sheikh Gad Al Haq had endangered the life of

activists who fight against

female circumcision by

issuing a fatwa (religious

edict) that he says urges the

government to execute those

government-appointed offi-

cial as weil as President Hos-

ni Mubarak and Prime Minis-

ter Atef Sedki for 500,000

pounds (\$147,000), which it

wants to donate to a cam-

paign against female cir-

Negad Al Borai, EOHR

secretary general, said the

cumcision.

EOHR is suing the

who oppose the practice.

south Cairo.

of Pope John Paul Il.

Amman to Baghdad.

the unfair embargo."

'It will be great opportun-

community on Sunday.

sanctions conference.



Guard Command.

The new endowment will substitute the old one, which used to be offered to two lists of students, one under the title badia and tribes' members and the other the Royal Court list. Applicants for the new

endowment, which will be the only channel for admitting students from lessfortunate parts of the King-dom to universities, will have to compete in accordmainly their grades in the general certificate examination.

The measure aims to upgrade the educational process in the less-fortunate areas and provide them with qualified teaching

An ad hoc committee comprising representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Armed Forces and the Badia and Border Guard Command, will determine which schools will benefit from the new endowment.

Those applying to the endowment programme should be graduates of the schools defined by the committee, should be holders of the secondary education certificate and should have an average of more than 65 per cent in the certificate examination for those applying to human science faculties and a minimum of 80 per cent for the engineering and pharmacy faculties and a minimum of 85 per cent for those applying for the faculties of

Easing of Iraq embargo unlikely

Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait are certain to remain unchanged when the Security Council holds a 60-day review of the curbs next week, according to council members.

A key condition for any easing of sanctions, which include a han on Iraqi oil sales. is fulfilment by Iraq of sec-tions of an April 1991 Gulf war ceasefire resolution calling for the scrapping of its weapons of mass destruction and ongoing U.N. monitoring to ensure it does not reaequire banned arms. These include nuclear, chemical and biological arms and facilities and missiles with a range greater than 150

Iraq on Friday told the council It will not destroy five machines that could be used to make ballistic missile parts until U.N. monitors finisb their investigation of Baghdad's biological weapons programme.

Rolf Ekeus, the chief U.N. weapons inspector, said earlier this week that Iraq had refused to destroy five pieces of equipment related to its missile programme.

He also said Iraq bad promised to submit by late July a complete report on its past biological weapons programme.

Iraq has admitted that it produced large amounts of botulism and anthrax as part of a hiological warfare programme.

Iraqi Amhassador Nizar Hamdoon, in a Friday letter to the council, said Baghdad would postpone destruction of the equipment "until the biology file is disposed of positively."

Security Council members

plaintiffs wanted to end once

and for all arguments over

whether female circumcision

was an Islamic requirement.

think Sheikh Al Azhar (Gad

Al Haq) gave a wrong reli-

gious opinion that hurt us personally... this opinion says

that whoever opposes cir-cumcision (of girls) is oppos-

ing a religious obligation and

the leader of the country

must kill him," Mr. Borai

"The people who have

joined the defence are groups

who are trying to impose

intellectual terrorism on peo-

ple by saying our case is against Islam. We think they

are against Islam and are

destroying its image. We are

Mr. Borai said the EOHR

would soon take doctors and

barbers to court for perform-

ing circumcision on girls who

Women's rights activists

estimate around 6,000 a day

across the world are sub-

jected to female circumci-

sion, also known as genital

multilation for the severe

In Egypt, a traditional mid-

wife or barber usually per-

forms the procedure using

unsterilised equipment to re-

move part of or all of the

clitoris and other parts of the

form it often takes.

trying to rescue Islam.

told Reuters.

then died.

"Our aim is simple. We

Egypt group takes Muslim leaders

to court over female circumcision

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Sanctions imposed on pects for easing the sanctions until Iraq abides hy the U.N. resolutions demanding the dismantling and monitoring of its programmes for weapons of mass destruction.

But the council is divided as to what to do if the monitors produce a positive report later this year Russia and France have

been demanding an easing of the oil embargo if the report is positive. The United States bas demanded that Iraq also improve its human rights record and return military equipment taken from

"I don't expect any change in the sanctions regime," said British Ambassador David

Mr. Ekeus said Iraq assured him it had destroyed all its bacteriological warfare agents by October 1990 and promised to provide a full, final and complete disclosure by the end of July of all aspects of its past biological weapons programme, which the U.N. Special commission

would then bave to verify. Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Al Sahaf, who has been lobbying Security council members in advance of the sanctions review, told Reuters on Thursday the bacteriological material had been destroyed "because it is very dangerous to keep it, to store it. And because we are not interested in this field, in

He also denied that Iraq was refusing to destroy equipment for making missile engines, saying "After we finalise the hiological file and see that both Iraq and the commission are heading towards finalising things, we will deal with this list of equipment conveniently.

genitalia. Side effects include

haemorrhage, shock and sex-ual dysfunction.

Sheikh Yousef Al Badri,

an Islamist preacher who joined Sheikh Gad Al Haq to

fight the EOHR, told repor-

ters female circumcision was

ohligatory in some cases and

that the rights groups had misquoted the works of Isla-

mic scholars to support their

"Circumcision does not

kill. What causes harm is that

the person performing it is

not specialised and that's why

we call for doctors and nurses

who can perform it and know

when it is needed and what to

remove," Sheikh Badri said.

medicine and is performed on

girls who needs it. At the age

of 10, if it is found that a girl's

clitoris bas elongated like a

man's penis, the extra part

must be taken off bul not

"It has been proven that if

all of the clitoris is removed

or if it is not removed at all a

woman's face takes on a sal-

low complexion. But if the

extra part is removed ... her

complexion is rosy, her

cheeks are red as apples, not

like your yellow ones." Sheikh Badri told a woman

reporter.

completely," he added.

"Circumcision is a form of

Israelis train for joint duty

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli horder guards have begun training for future joint patrols with Palestinian police in areas of the West Bank due to be evacuated by the army under an extension of self-rule, Israel, radio said Saturday.

Israel Sudan, the commander of the border guard, said: "The men called to participate in these joint patrols fulfill a very sensitive and complex mission.

"They will have to pragmatically find solutions to prob-lems demanding a lot of reflection and understanding of the situation," he told the

The first training session began this week at an uniden-tified hase to prepare the Israeli hnrder guards for the unprecedented assignment, the radio added.

A young recruit to the course and a former member of an elite Israeli army unit, said they were "training to counter urban terrorism, and for other tasks requiring very specifie ability."

Joint Israeli and Palesti-

nian units are already patrolling two Palestinian-Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal said about 3,000 border guards would progressively begin replacing Israeli troops in areas of the occupied West Bank that the army will withdraw from under the "Rainbow II" re-

deployment plan.
"This assumes that the number of border guards will considerably increase," Mr. Shahal said on the radio.

The border guards, which fall under the police and not the army, currently number about 5,000. According to Israel Radio. 500 border guards will be based in the West Bank be-

ginning this year, another 750 guards in 1996, with the rest in 1997.

About 90 border guards have already taken up position in the village of Ahu Dis, in East Jerusalem, to reinforce Israeli control of border areas that will fall under Palestinian anthority, the radio said.

Other border guards are also to soon begin patrolling the outskirts of the West Bank towns of Nablus, Kalkilya, Ramallah and Bethlebem, it added.

The accord is expected to transferring civilian authority Declaration states later to the Palestinian Authority. scrapped plans to form a joint guarantees," the radio said.



tated Wui Dihu village in China which was hit dead in the flor by floods caused by torrential rain that submerged the homes of more than 20,000 people.

Damascus declaration states discuss ties with Iran, Iraq

MANAMA (Agencies) — Eight Arah allies gathered in Bahrain on Saturday to discuss their tense ties with Iran

and Iraq.
Bahrain Foreign Minister
Sheikb Mohammad Ben
'Mubarak Al Khalifa said ties with Iran and Iraq would top the agenda of the talks between the foreign ministers of the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and

Egypt and Syria. Sheikh Mohammad said the Middle East peace pro-cess, in which Egypt and Syria are closely involved, would also be reviewed at the two-day meeting of the Damascus declaration states. The group has backed efforts to reach peace with Israel and supports Syria's demand for a full withdrawal from the

Egypt, which in 1979 be-came the first Arah state to sign a peace treaty with Israel, is acting as mediator between the Jewish state and both Syria and the Palestinians to try to narrow differ-

Golan Heights.

The eight states led an anti-Baghdad Arah camp during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis and formed the regional alliance days after Iraq's Gulf war

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain. Egypt and Syria sent troops to fight alongside . forces in the Guif war.

regional force to patrol the area, a move which Iran, the Gulf's non-Arab power, strongly opposed but which was encouraged by the United States.

Instead they decided that military cooperation should be agreed upon in bilateral accords between declaration members.

The alliance now largely serves as a forum in which members consult on political issues and often agree on common stands concerning international and regional

It has been turned into a diplomatie alliance which serves mostly as a forum in which to consult each other. In a meeting in February it issued a statement welcoming Iraq's formal recognition of Kuwaiti sovereignty. Egypt and Syria were also

apposed to benefit from a \$10 billion development fund the Gulf states would set up. The money did not materialise but Gulf states have individually poured aid into the

Tehran Radio said Saturday the Damascus declaration is an obsolete document. The 6+2 is more like a

club which has gone out of business than anything else," the radio said, reacting to the news that the alliance's foreien ministers were meeting in Bahrain.

The declaration "is purely a symbolic pact because its decisions have no executional Addressing the meeting, Sheikh Mohammad said: "There is scope for greater integration and unity of purpose addressing the meeting of Sheikh Mohammad said: "It is important to promote economic cooperation to help the development of our coun-

Arab diplomats in the Gulf said the eight ministers would also examine an Egyptian proposal to create political, economic and social committees within the Damascus declaration during their meet-

Sheikh Mohammad projected the alliance as the nucleus for a new era of pan-Arab unity.

"The grouping ... represents a starting point and a quest for wider Arah solidarity on the basis of the Arab League Charter ... to institute a new Arah order that draws on the experience of the past and builds for the future," said Sheikh Mohammad, the conference chair-

He noted that it was the first Arab bloc to be formed in the post-cold war era.

Sheikh Mohammad, whose country is locked in a territorial waters dispute with Qatar, expressed satisfaction at recent border accords between Saudi Arabia and Yemen and Oman and Yemen.

On the Arab-Israeli peace process, Syria is expected to draw strong support for its demands that Israel withdraw from the Golan Heights.

New exhibit shows Hiroshima devastation

WASHINGTON (R) — An anti-nuelear war exhibit showing the atomic bombs devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki opened Saturday with little of the fanfare or outcry that met the Smithsonian's Enola Gay bomber exhibit. The new exhibit at American University in Washington uses text, photos and artifacts to explore the destruction wreaked by the atomic bomb dropped on atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima Aug. 6, 1945, by the Enola Gay, a U.S. B-29 bomber. That bombing and the one of Nagasaki three days later — also featured in the school's exhibit — hastened the end of World War Il 50 years ago. But that devastation now gets only brief mention at the Enola Gay exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Musenm. which was the subject of intense protest when it was originally proposed. After months of controversy museum officials agreed to present a scaled-back version of the exhibit last month that showed little of the bomb's destruction and the deaths and injuries to tens of thousands of Japanese civilians. American veterans and some members of Congress had protested the plans for the original Enola Gay exhibit, saying they portrayed Americans as villains and Japanese as victims. They also said it failed to mention that the hombings saved American lives by averting an invasion of Japan. The revised, more low-key Enola Gay exhibit in turn led to protests by academics who said it was unbalanced by featuring the plane and not the aftermath of the bombing and the moral questions it

Mobile phone saves couple

trapped in river TOKYO (AFP) — A mobile phone saved the lives of a young couple whose van was trapped in a flooded river, the Asahi Shimbun reported Saturday. A 22-year-old con-fectioner from Tsu City and his 20-year-old girlfriend were driving alongside the Anno River past midnight Friday when their vehicle was washed into the water, the daily said, quoting police. The man then used his mobile telephone to for rescue. Twenty policemen and firefighters took two hours to rescue the couple and retrieve their car.

Gulf emirate fiogs youths for reckless driving

DUBAI (R) - Two United Arah Emirates (UAE) youths have each been lashed 30 times for reckless driving, with the punishment meted out at the spot where they had caused a fatal accident, newspapers reported Saturday. A photograph in Guif News showed a crowd of young men gathered near a mosque to view the flogging Friday in Ras Al-Khaimah, one of seven UAE emirates. it said up to 2,000 people watched the punishment, which police said was carried out in public to deter other reckless drivers. The emi-rate's Traffic Department head, Major Abdulla Jumma, said in May that public canings of reckless drivers had contributed to a drop in road deaths.

Van found after nuclear alert

BIRMINGHAM, England (AFP) - Police Friday said they had recovered a stolen van containing a potentially dangerous piece of radioac-tive material whose disappearance had sparked a nationwide alert. Police said an area around Birmingham's Brookefield Road where the van was found early Friday had been cordoned off as inspectors checked for radiation. No arrests were re-ported. Officials said the van, taken from outside a house in this central English city Wednesday, was carrying a density measuring device with a radioactive source that could cause contamination or radiation burns. They said the device, intact, posed no danger, but that it could cause injuries if dismantled by unknowledgeable persons.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Women fined after brawl over metro seat

CAIRO (AFP) - Three women arguing over a seat in an all-female carriage fought each other in a vicious brawl that brought a Cairo metro train to a halt, the government daily newspaper Al Gumhuriya said Saturday. The women, their faces bruised and swollen, were arrested by police and fined 400 pounds (\$130) after the Cairo metro driver had to stop his train early Friday, the paper said.

Students chase away monitors to cheat on test

CAIRO (AFP) — A group of Egyptian students threw rocks at their monitors and chased them away after they tried to prevent them from cheating on an English test, a newspaper said Saturday. The students, who were taking the test Thursday in a secondary school at Hawamdiya, 30 kilometres south of Cairo, found the questions too difficult and complained to the monitors, the daily Al Wafd reported. But the monitors showed little sympathy, drawing anger from the students, who hit and stoned them, and broke the class windows, the paper said. The monitors called police, who came and restored order. But in the meantime the students were able to fill out the test, the paper said, without detailing whether the results were annulled. Several similar incidents have occurred in Egypt in the past few years. In June parents were caught taking tests for their children in southern Egypt, while last year a group of parents transmitted answers by microphone to students at a school in the Nile delta.

2,000 heid in crackdown on smugggiing in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) - Iranian police have arrested 2,127 people in a crackdown on smuggling in the south of the country, police chief Reza Scifollahi said Saturday. Mr. Seifollahi, quoted by Tehran Radio, said the suspects were rounded up on June 25 in coastal areas near the gulf. He said more than two million cigarettes, about 2,000 fire arms and more than 114,000 other items were seized during the operation. Eleven dhows and 209 light boats were also confiscated. Iran has witnessed a wave of smuggling during the past few years involving consumer goods brought in from Gulf Arab states, such as electronic products, and items banned in Iran, including alcohol and satellite

Kuwait shelters iraqis on deserted island

KUWAIT (R) - Kuwait is providing Iraqi families who fled poverty at home with temporary shelter on an otherwise deserted island, a newspaper reported on Saturday. "Orders have been given to all the fleeing Iraqi families to stay on Failakah Island where a school was allocated to house them temporarily," said Al Watan newspaper. An Interior Ministry spokesman said he had no immediate comment on the report. Failakah has been unimhabited since the 1991 Gulf war that ended Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. Al Watan said authorities were supplying the unspecified number of Iraqi families with their basic needs until a solution to the problem of the

influx was found. Two Iraqis - a woman and a baby - had died while trying to reach Kuwait, it said.

Saudi king gives \$4 million for Los Angeles mosque

DUBAI (R) - Saudi Arahia's King Fahd has donated \$4 million to build a mosque in Los Angeles, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said on Saturday. It quoted Saudi Ambassador Prince Bandar Ben Sultan in Washington as saying the donation covers the entire cost of the building, which will serve 250,000 Muslims in Los Angeles. SPA said the king's son, Prince Abdul Aziz, paid \$875,000 for the land on which the mosque will be built. It did not say when work would start, how long it would take, or how many worshippers the mosque would accommodate.

EU, N. African ministers to meet in Tunisia

TUNIS (R) - Eleven European Union and North African foreign ministers will meet in Tunisia on July 28-29 to discuss links between South and North Mediterranean countries, diplomats and officials said on Saturday. They said ministers from France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Greece, Turkey, Malta, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Egypt would attend the forum, which will be held in the northern Tunisian resort of Tabarka. "It is an extraordinary informal forum to prepare for the European Union-Mediterranean conference to be held on Nov. 27-28 in Barcelona," a Tunisian official said.

Militants kill coptic Christian in Egypt

MINYA (AFP) - Muslim militants on Saturday shot dead a Coptic Christian pharmacist who had received anonymous threatening letters after agreeing to sell part of his land to the church, police said. Khayri Fahmi Girgess, 55 who was fired on by three men in his field near Malawi, 300 kilometres south of Cairo, had received threats a month ago after offering land to the Archbishop of Malawi, police said. His death took to 827 the number of people killed since March 1992, when Muslim militants began a violent campaign to overthrow the government. Coptie Christians, police and Western tourists have been the main targets of the armed Gamaa Islamiyah fundamentalist group,

Bogus graves deter mourning for satirist

ANKARA (R) - Maverick Turkish anthor Aziz Nesin is soubbing convention once again, this time from beyond the grave, Turkish newspapers said on Saturday. Nesin, who died of a heart attack on Thursday, has been laid to rest on his instructions in an unmarked grave in one of eight burial plots dug in the same garden to confuse potential mour-ners. Only a handful of people know Nesin's real grave. The other seven plots have been filled in with earth. Turks traditionally make sombre visits to graves of loved ones on religious holidays and anniversaries of their death. "Those who loved him should have better things to do than visit his grave. He wrote that in his books," the satirist's son Ali told the Yeni Yuzyil daily after Nesin's no-fuss hurial on Friday. "He wanted children to plny on his green," he said.

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